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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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CLARK SCHOOL

Sprucing up for the holidays

*'Garden Angel' brings
Christmas cheer to school*

By Mike Lydick
aan@turley.com

It looks a lot like Christmas at the James Clark School, thanks to "Garden Angel" Richard Stepanik.

During the Thanksgiving break, Stepanik planted and decorated Fraser fir Christmas trees and positioned handmade birch reindeer — all with red noses — at all entrances. He wrapped the white columns at the main entrance with red velvet ribbons and placed decorated pots near the doors. He hung wreaths with red bows on the school's large white sign, railings, and staff parking signs.

Principal Shelley Russell said the effect was "spectacular." Students were surprised — excited — to see the decorations upon returning to school. So were the staff. One elated teacher called the Christmas decorations "awesome" when she saw them.

"Kids loved the poles that resembled candy canes as well as the festive Christmas trees. Some were convinced that at least one reindeer was Rudolph," said Russell.

The decorations are among many projects Stepanik has undertaken to make the school look more inviting at holidays and throughout the year.

While many parents join the PTO to support local education, you won't catch Stepanik at a meeting.

"That's not my thing," said Stepanik, an Agawam farmer and native who began doing projects at the school about five years ago.

It all started when he brought his son to his first day of school and noticed the main



Richard Stepanik positions a wooden reindeer at the main entrance to the James Clark School. He's been decorating the school at holiday times for the past five years. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

STEPANIK | page 6

PROPERTY TAX

Council shifts burden on to businesses

*Homeowners face smaller
hikes with new rate shift*

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

After several "shifts" in the conversation, the Agawam City Council Monday night narrowly passed a tax shift of 1.52, a larger split than the current 1.48. The change means relatively lower tax rates for residents and higher rates for business property owners.

Under the new shift, homeowners in Agawam will see tax rates of \$16.18 per \$1,000 valuation, while commercial and industrial properties will be taxed at \$29.98 per \$1,000. According to Town Assessor Kevin Baldini, the average home, valued at \$212,400, will see a tax increase of \$145. Small businesses on property valued under \$500,000, will see increases averaging about \$514. Large commercial and industrial properties values over \$500,000, will see an average increase of about \$3,373.

Baldini and Mayor Richard Cohen recommended a tax shift of 1.50, but the majority of the City Council members wanted to go farther in one direction or the other.

Baldini said Agawam has lost \$15 million in taxable assets during the past year. He said the main losses stemmed from property owned by Eversource Energy that dropped in value, and two large industrial properties that became state-sanctioned factories and no pay property taxes.

"They fall under an excise tax from the state," said Baldini.

With the loss in taxable property along with an increase in the budget, it created a "perfect storm," as Councilor Gina Letellier described it, resulting in large increases for the taxpayers.

"No matter which way this goes," said Councilor Joseph Mineo, "taxes are going up."

TAX | page 6

TOWN HALL

New clerk won't be hired by Jan.

*Mayor working on 1st job description as
Theroux plans exit after 33 years*

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Mayor Richard Cohen said this week he is starting the process to replace outgoing Town Clerk Richard Theroux, who will take a job in the private sector and join the Agawam City Council in January.

Cohen, who is the appointing authority for Town Hall department heads, said the new clerk will have to be someone who he can trust to handle the town's most sensitive records and move the department into the future.

"Under Richard's time as town clerk, the office has been run very

well," said Cohen. "He has evolved with different changes that have been thrown his way. We need our next town clerk to do the same."

Theroux has been town clerk since 1983. Cohen says he has not established a formal timeline to name Theroux's successor, but said it is safe to say a replacement will not be named before Theroux leaves the position in January.

"Currently, I believe Richard will be finished when he is sworn in to the City Council," said Cohen. "At that point, I envision that Margaret [McCarthy] and the rest of the staff will run the depart-

CLERK | page 7

Hi hi hi, ho ho ho



It was meet-and-greet time for Santa Claus and 17-month-old Jacob Aldrich, held by his mother, Monica. The Feeding Hills resident brought her son to his first Breakfast with Santa sponsored by the Agawam Junior Women's Club last weekend. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK

Six-year-old Mason Rachke is all smiles as he sits on Santa's lap while posing for a photo. More photos, page 10.



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Dietschler to speak at Springfield Rotary

SPRINGFIELD — Agawam resident MaryAnn Dietschler, founder of Wreaths with a Reason, will address the Springfield Rotary Club's luncheon meeting on Friday, Dec. 11. Dietschler, a resident of Agawam, will discuss how a hobby turned into a chance to donate and bring attention to Operation Underground Railroad, an organization that performs rescue operations for children who have been sold into slavery or are victims of human trafficking.

The wreath business emerged from a desire to "do" something about the tragedy of nearly two million children worldwide living as sex slaves. Along with a few

dedicated volunteers, Dietschler and her team use their creativity to design beautiful wreaths to support the rescue efforts of OUR.

OUR is a privately funded and bureaucracy-free. It consists of a team of U.S. Navy SEALs, CIA operatives, law enforcement officers and military veterans who form a focused and nimble group of extraction experts.

Wreaths with a Reason was founded in 2014, and all money from wreath sales — to date, over \$7,000 — go to OUR. Wreaths will be available for sale at the Dec. 11 Rotary meeting. To learn more about OUR,

visit www.ourrescue.org. To purchase a wreath, visit www.wreathswithareason.com.

The Springfield Rotary Club meets every Friday at 12:15 p.m. in the Mass Mutual Room at the Basketball Hall of Fame, West Columbus Avenue, Springfield, and is a member of Rotary International. The luncheon with guest speaker is \$17 per person and is open to the public.

For more information on the Springfield Rotary or becoming a member, contact

Springfield Club Membership Chairman Mike Healy at 860-796-1435 or visit www.springfieldmarotary.org.

Residents invited to candlelight Christmas services

Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., will host a family candlelight service at 5 p.m. and a traditional candlelight service at 11 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24. All are invited.



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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$50, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Christmas tree collections Jan. 4-7

The Department of Public Works has announced that Republic Services will again provide a courtesy collection of Christmas trees next month. Christmas trees will be collected on the same day as residents' scheduled trash collection during the week of Jan. 4-7.

Christmas trees 7 feet or larger must be cut in half and placed on the tree belt no earlier than 7 a.m. on collection day. Trees in plastic bags will not be collected. It is not the responsibility of the hauler to dig out trees buried in the snow due to plowing or excessive snowfall.

Residents should be aware that the regular trash truck will not be collecting trees; a separate truck will be running the collection.

To dispose of trees prior to or after a scheduled collection day, yard waste passes for the Bondi's Island landfill are available at the Department of Public Works, 1000 Suffield St., Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Lemanski a finalist for Granby supt. job

By Michael J. Ballway
mballway@turley.com

School officials from Granby, Mass., were in town this week to ask about Steven Lemanski. They want to know if the Agawam High School principal is the right candidate to take over as superintendent in their town.

Lemanski was named as one of three finalists for the job on Nov. 23. The School Committee in Granby hopes to make a decision at its Dec. 17 meeting. If they choose to offer him the job, Lemanski said this week, he'll face a difficult decision.

"I love Agawam, I really do," he said. "I have a wonderful school here. ... It would be very difficult for me to leave the school."

Lemanski, a South Hadley resident and native of Chicopee, has been at AHS since 2004, when he was hired as assistant principal. He took the top job in 2007, and said

he's proud of the school culture and environment he's been able to craft over the past eight years. He estimated that he's been involved in hiring more than half the staff at AHS.

On the other hand, he said, his career goal is to become a superintendent. He holds a state certification to work as a superintendent and a master of educational administration degree. Though he has not been applying to every opening — Granby is the only district where he is currently a candidate — he has been keeping his eye open for opportunities close by. He was a finalist in South Hadley, the town where he lives, in 2012.

"I've been very selective as far as school districts I've been looking at," Lemanski said. Granby, he added, is "a smaller school district, it's a little closer to my home. It's a place where I think I can work and do a good job with."

Lemanski grew up in Chicopee and

was a recreation supervisor for the state Department of Youth Services 1985-1995, a health and physical education teacher in the Chicopee public schools 1995-96; mediation coordinator in Chicopee High School 1997-98; department supervisor at Chicopee Comprehensive High School 1998-2001 and 2003-2004; and athletic director for Chicopee schools 2001-2003, before coming to Agawam. He is a graduate of Chicopee High School, Springfield College and UMass-Amherst, where he attained his master's degree.

The other two finalists in Granby are Jennifer Chapin, a principal in the Hatfield schools and a resident of Wilbraham; and Sheryl Stanton, assistant superintendent in Southbridge, a former principal in Ludlow, and a resident of Somers, Conn. All three finalists have master's degrees; Stanton, unlike the other two, is enrolled in a doctorate program.

Walter Hamilton, a correspondent for Turley Publications, contributed to this report.



From left, Kathy Mouneimneh, Samantha Rudd, Janine Iacolo and Christina Beauchemin at the Springfield Festival of Trees. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Women's Club celebrates federation's 125th

At the Festival of Trees in Springfield sponsored by the Springfield Boys and Girls Club, Agawam Junior Women's Club members set up a tree celebrating the 125th anniversary of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. The AJWC has been a member of the GFWC for 59

years. Meetings are held at the Agawam Senior Center on the third Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:30 p.m. New members are welcome and encouraged to join. Anyone with questions about membership may call Christina at 413-427-8784.

Senator sponsors free ice skating Dec. 19

WESTFIELD — State Sen. and Mrs. Don Humason will host a free ice-skating event from 5 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19, at Amelia Park Arena, 21 S. Broad St., Westfield. Residents are invited to bring their family, visit with Humason and his family, have some refreshments, and skate admission-free courtesy of Humason. Ice skate rentals will be available for \$3 per person.

In the spirit of the season, guests are asked to bring one canned good or non-perishable item to be donated to Kate's Kitchen in Holyoke to help those in need this winter.

For more information about the event or possible sponsorship opportunities, call 413-568-3390.

'Sounds of the Season' concert at St. John's

The Agawam Concert Band & Choir, and the Alice Moore Golden Bell Choir of the Agawam Congregational Church are presenting a "Sounds of the Season" concert Sunday, Dec. 20.

The concert begins at 7 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Church Hall, 833 Main St., Agawam. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for ages 13 to 18 and free for children 12 and under. They will be available at the door or may be purchased in advance by calling 413-530-9779.

Live Nativity this Saturday

All are invited to the Church of Redemption in Agawam to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas at its annual Live Nativity from 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12. The night's events will also include Christmas carols, hot cocoa, cookies and animals courtesy of the Forest Park Zoo. Kids will be able to decorate their own Christmas cookie.

The church is at 50 Maple St., Agawam.

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Opinion

OUR VIEW

Watch out for Christmas crooks

12 Scams of Christmas
By the Better Business Bureau

*On the twelfth day of Christmas,
The scammers gave to me:
Twelve malware e-cards,
Eleven stranded grandkids,
Ten counterfeit gifts,
Nine pickpockets,
Eight stolen gift cards,
Seven fake coupons,
Six Santa scammers,
Five fake charities,
Four bogus websites,
Three travel scams,
Two phony loves,
And a totally fictitious puppy.*

It may seem the good folks over at the Better Business Bureau are poking fun at holiday scams, and while we got a little chuckle from their 21st century rendition of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" (written just a couple years ago), we think the BBB's good humor offers a timely warning to readers that not everyone has "good will toward men" this time of year.

If you're trying to get to the end of your holiday shopping list, don't let a hasty keystroke or hurried purchase ruin your holiday. There are scammers lurking, waiting to take advantage of stressed out shoppers. Be alert and take heed to anything that seems suspicious.

A good word of advice: If you didn't enter a lottery, you can't win it. Never give out personal information over the Internet. Law enforcement will never ask for money during an investigation. If it seems "iffy," or too good to be true, contact the Agawam police at 413-786-4767 or the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office at 617-727-8400.

Also, in the hyped up electronic world, e-cards may be filling your inbox right about now, but they don't always bring "good tidings of great joy." One click could give your computer a nasty virus or malware.

The "stranded grandkids" scam is also alive and well. In this particular scam, crooks pose as law enforcement and claim a family member has been detained. The crooks ask for bail money to release the relative. This scam often targets seniors. Scammers prey on the emotions of their victims, hoping hasty decisions are made before a victim has time to review the situation.

If you are expecting a package delivery, chances are, so is a thief. Most delivery services provide tracking numbers and will text or email notifications on the status of a package, including delivery. If you didn't get the goods, contact the store immediately. Another good tip — always request a signature confirmation upon delivery. This way, the package will not be left unattended.

Recognizing being involved in a scam is not as obvious as it may seem. But should a resident feel they've been contacted by a scammer, they can report scams to local police or the attorney general. To check if a company or charity is legitimate, visit the Better Business Bureau at www.bbb.org.

To learn more about holiday scams and ways to protect yourself, visit the Better Business Bureau's website. In the mean time, from all of us at Agawam Advertiser News, we wish you and yours a happy and safe holiday season!

What do you think? Email your letter to the editor to aan@turley.com.



YESTERDAY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

Thirty years for the '85s

The Class of '85 didn't enter AHS until their sophomore year. It was quite a year for the school as the girls soccer team, boys track team, the cheerleaders and the band all won championships. Prince William was born in England and Barney Clark received the first artificial heart.

As juniors, the '85s took their PSATs while our Marines were sent to Beirut, Lebanon. Our town had a flood, Bill Murray starred in "Ghostbusters" and Cabbage Patch Kids were born. The '85s got their class rings and prepared themselves for senior year.

Bill Fortier was elected class president for senior year. Patti O'Donnell was vice president, Angela Christy, treasurer, and Mary Copple, secretary. The band continued winning in Trumbull, Conn., and at the Columbus Day Parade. Wrestling finished second in Western Mass., foreshadowing Coach Phil Tomkiel's 10-year championship dynasty. Ronald Reagan was re-elected president, Prince became a star and the world sent aid to Ethiopia.

In their ballot box, the '85s voted Jeff Wands and Lori Helin as Most Likely to Succeed; Chuck Losito and Lisa Mezzetti, Class Individuals; Steve Oberle and Jennifer Powell, Class Scholars; Karen Conway

and Paul Joseph, Class Musicians; Bob Wing and Leah Negrucci, Class Athletes; Steve Wands and Andrea Tebaldi, Class Artists; and Lisa Skelton and Nick DiTomaso, Best Looking.

The ad section of the '85 Schem is as interesting as the rest of the yearbook. Agawam Advertisers News had a full-page ad listing the entire staff and staff reporters. Ads for Spartan Saw, Kidder Stacy, Mushy's and the Rollaway brought back a few memories. Who knew that John Whalley's small computer store in Southwick was a sleeping giant?

Here are some more '85s you may know or have seen around town: Paul Chenevert, policeman; Kim Corriveau, hockey mom; Jay Davis; Fred Fruwirth, car dealer; Al Ingham; Ed Kopyscinski; Gina Letellier, city councilor; Todd Mazza; Steve Melanson; Ellen Stratton; Jennifer Trehey; Ron Viens and Robert Wing. The '85s are nearly 50 and some are grandparents. Many have children who are Brownies.

Walt Willard went to AHS and taught math there for 16 years. He can be reached at 413-786-7924. Call him. Walt loves your feedback and any and all information or tidbits you can offer.



Walt Willard



Members of the Class of 1985 hit the books for a yearbook photo. SUBMITTED PHOTO



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and space. The deadline is Monday at Noon. Please send letters to *Agawam Advertiser News*, Letters to the Editor, Attn: Teri Machia, 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030 or e-mail aan@turley.com.



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Art class offered at Senior Center

The Agawam Senior Center is offering a new Tuesday evening art class. Participants will work with oils, acrylics, pastels and watercolor. The class, which will run from 6 to 8 p.m., is open to the public. For more information, call Barbara Cohen, instructor, at 413-786-1883.

St. David's plans Christmas Eve service

St. David's Episcopal Church, 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, next to the Agawam Police Station, has announced the following special services.

Thursday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve — 4 p.m., Christmas Eve Pageant, Family Christmas Eve Service; 10 p.m., Candlelight Services.

Sunday, Dec. 27: 9 a.m., Traditional Service of Lessons and Carols.

APD's Toys for Tots collection this weekend

The Agawam Police Association will be collecting toys to fill a cruiser for Toys for Tots from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 12 and 13. The event will take place at Geissler's Supermarket, 830 Suffolk St., Agawam.

The objectives of Toys for Tots are to help less fortunate children throughout the United States experience the joy of Christmas; to play an active role in the development of one of our nation's most valuable resources — our children; to unite all members of local communities in a common cause for three months each year during the annual toy collection and distribution campaign; and to contribute to better communities in the future.

Improv troupe gives free performance Tuesday

Phantom Sheep, a comedy troupe based in Western Massachusetts, will return to the Agawam Public Library with a free performance of improv and sketch comedy at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 15.

"LaughCrafters" will feature live improvised scenes created on the spot based on audience suggestions, along with a few pre-recorded sketches. The Phantom Sheep Players repertoire includes Western Mass. natives Eric Boucher, Tommy Lynch, Jesse Redmond, Greg Seymour, Jeff Tingley and Kevin Zabawa. For more information about the troupe and information about the show, visit www.phantomssheep.com and on Facebook.com/phntmsheep, where those interested can register for this free event.

Grange hosting bazaar on Saturday

Community Grange 382 of Feeding Hills will hold a holiday bazaar from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, at the Grange Hall, 47 N. West St., Feeding Hills. Items for sale include gift items, ornaments, wreaths and more made by Grange members. The bake sale will be bigger than last year and will include homemade baked beans.

Obituary

Edward S. Green, 87

CITRUS HEIGHTS, Calif. — Edward Stephen Green, 87, of Citrus Heights, Calif., passed away peacefully on Nov. 24 in the care of hospice at his home, surrounded by his family. He was born in Agawam on Dec. 27, 1927. He was the son of Mary and Thomas Green, both immigrants from Lebanon. He married Wanda F. Green on July 16, 1953, after a courtship of one month. They shared 62 years of marriage together.

Ed loved sports and played semi-pro football in Agawam, where he resided until he turned 18 and joined the Navy. After two years service, he was honorably discharged and settled in California and gained employment with the Southern Pacific Transportation Co. He started his railroad career as a telegraph operator and advanced to a dispatcher position, retiring after 37 years. During this time he had four children.

Ed's enjoyment in life was relationships. He coached Pony League baseball, leading four teams to championship seasons. He also coached girls softball, volunteered at the Senior Gleaners, was



an avid bowler and golfer, and enjoyed cruising with Wanda. He loved going with his family to the harness races and the strategy of handicapping. Above all else, Ed cherished his family and valued every moment with them.

He will be dearly missed by his family and friends. He is survived by his loving wife, Wanda; four children, Gail (Dan) Annett, Stephen (Susan) Green, Lynn (Tim) Mitchell, and Kevin Green. He was blessed with six grandchildren, Kristina Forsberg, Brian (Jenny) Forsberg, Chelsea (Chris) Cumiford, Zach Green, Mikaela (Curtis) Hudson, and Michael (Ann) Mitchell; and seven great-grandchildren, Racine and Marisa Robson, Paige, Bailee, McKenzie, and Parker Forsberg, and Cal Hudson. He was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas and Mary Green; brothers Joseph, Peter, Albert, George and Michael, and sisters Josephine Green and Josephine Paige. Services were held at Sylvan Cemetery in Citrus Heights, on Dec. 4. Burial followed in the Veteran's Court of Honor. A reception followed.

TABLE FOR TWO

Christmas season made easy with pork

My favorite time of the year! How often my friends and relatives curse me for being so organized during this busy season (my shopping is always done by Thanksgiving). However, what they don't understand is that I begin to prepare for Dec. 25 on Sept. 1.

But even with all my early preparations, it is still a busy time for me. So I have two easy slow cooker pork recipes that will surely be a relief to your schedule during this wonderful time of year.



Ann Macey

hours. NOTES: Carrots should not be sliced more than 1/4 inch thick or their texture will be too hard when the meal is done. This recipe is best if served over plain rice or mashed potatoes.

Souper Pork Chops

- 3 T. flour
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 T. cooking oil
- 2 center cut, boneless pork chops (about 1" thick)
- 1 can (10.5 oz.) condensed chicken

rice soup

Combine flour, salt, and garlic powder in a pie plate and dredge the chops in flour mixture. Discard excess flour. Heat oil on med-high in a 10" skillet and sear chops on both sides. Place chops in a 2 1/2 qt. slow cooker. Pour soup over chops, cover and cook on low for 3 1/2 – 4 hours. NOTES: It is not recommended that you use pork chops with the bone in for this recipe. I usually use low sodium/low fat soup for this recipe. Don't discard the remaining soup as makes a wonderful base for 'Leftover Soup' (recipe on my website: www.AnnsTableForTwo.com).

Ann Macey is the author of "ANN'S TABLE FOR TWO: Quick & Easy Two Serving Recipes." Ann welcomes your questions and comments. You may contact her at AnnsTable@gmail.com.

Merry Christmas!

Café Pork

- 1 whole pork tenderloin (about 3/4 lb.)
- 1 tsp. minced garlic
- 3/4 C. sliced fresh carrots
- 1/2 C. diced tomatoes, fresh or canned
- 1 tsp. dried basil
- 1/2 tsp. dried oregano
- 1 T. brown gravy mix
- 1 C. dry white wine
- 1 T. cornstarch

Cut tenderloin into 1 1/2 to 2 inch cubes and place in a 2 1/2 qt. slow cooker. Add garlic, carrots, and tomatoes. Sprinkle with basil, oregano, and gravy mix. In a medium prep bowl, whisk wine and cornstarch and pour over ingredients. Toss ingredients, cover and cook on low for 7-8

DEATH NOTICES

Green, Edward S.
Died Nov. 24
Services Dec. 4
Sylvan Cemetery
Citrus Heights, Calif.

Haluszka, Norman E.
Died Dec. 6
Memorial Service Dec. 12
Agawam United Methodist Church
Agawam Funeral Home, Inc.

Prova Joseph D.
Died Dec. 2
Graveside Service Dec. 7
Curran-Jones Funeral Home
Agawam

Agawam Advertiser News Obituary Policy

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$50, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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STEPANIK ■ from page 1

entrance's "poor" landscaping. "I was shocked. The walkway bushes were overgrown and the beds needed weeding. The place looked like a mess," recalled Stepanik.

He spoke with Russell — who had just started as principal — and volunteered to replace the bushes. She accepted his offer, and then called the DPW to ask them to remove the old bushes so Stepanik could plant new ones.

Since then, Stepanik has made it an ongoing effort to ensure that the school's grounds look their best year-round. And his work isn't limited to decorating and landscaping. He's also refurbished and repainted the school's signs, repainted the flagpole and fixed a broken basketball hoop.

Russell said Stepanik often will call her to ask if she needs anything done.

"If I don't have anything, he will make suggestions. Richard will do anything and everything we ask him to do," she added.

Welcoming atmosphere

Russell said Stepanik has created such a welcoming atmosphere at the school that visitors and parents frequently compliment her on how "beautiful" the grounds look.

"Richard is thrilled when he hears that people enjoy his work," she said.

Stepanik also works collaboratively with the DPW to make improvements. Noticing large branches from two dying trees in a school field, Stepanik spoke to the DPW.

"I urged them to remove the trees. They were a hazard. The branches were a danger to kids who played in the field," he said.

After the trees were removed, Stepanik contacted a friend who ground the stumps at no charge. Stepanik then planted several smaller trees he got donated.

Stepanik does most of the work himself, but he's asked local businesses for services

or materials. Among them are Dale Boglish Nursery, P & S Tree Service, Rocky's Hardware, Home Depot, Lowe's, Clark Paint, Sherwin-Williams Paint and Moren Signs.

"I'm not shy about asking for donations. Shelley will often write letters for me, too. When they understand it's for the school, they're usually willing to help. It's not about me — it's for the kids. I want them to have a nice looking school," said Stepanik.

Stepanik has been recognized with an Agawam Education Association Friends of Education award and received a plaque from the PTO. His biggest reward, however, is the "stacks" of thank-you cards and letters from students, who rarely see Stepanik.

He spends about 40 to 50 hours a year at the school sprucing up the grounds, planting flowers, mulching the shrub

beds and decorating at holidays. He always works when students aren't at school. During the school year, he comes on weekends or shows up at 6 a.m. to water flowers.

"I want to be respectful of students," he said. "I don't want to be a distraction or a disruption if they look out the window and see me working."

Russell said while the staff feels fortunate that Stepanik devotes so much time to their school, his work does more than just make the school look nice.

"It helps students and staff take more pride in their school," she said. "They have a beautiful welcoming building to come into every day. And when he changes decorations with the seasons, everyone comments."

Even though his son has graduated to Doering School, Stepanik plans to continue volunteering at Clark: "As long as the kids and staff continue to enjoy it, I'll keep doing the work," he said.

"Richard is our 'Garden Angel,'" said Russell. "He comes at night and works his magic. We're lucky to have him. We hope his magic lasts for years to come."

"It's not about me — it's for the kids. I want them to have a nice looking school."

— Richard Stepanik



Richard Stepanik shows James Clark School Principal Shelley Russell the holiday wreath on her parking space sign, one of the many Christmas decorations he put up at the school over Thanksgiving weekend.



It looks a lot like Christmas at the James Clark School thanks to "Garden Angel" Richard Stepanik, shown here decorating one of several Christmas trees he planted near the school's entrances. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK

TAX ■ from page 1

Council President Christopher Johnson was among a few who favored retaining the tax shift at 1.48, which would have lessened the increase for businesses while only slightly increasing more for residents. Councilor Cecilia Calabrese proposed a 1.49 shift.

"I just cannot see us being business-friendly when the tax increase for businesses is four to five times higher than the residential increase," said Johnson.

Councilors Robert Rossi and Gina Letellier were among those who supported a tax shift above 1.50.

Rossi said he wanted to see a 1.55 shift to lessen the increase for residents. He said businesses have more of an opportunity to recuperate from a larger tax bill than a resident on a fixed income.

"We have a lot of people who are retired and do not see increases in their Social Security," said Rossi. "I think we really need to think about our residents."

Letellier agreed, saying she was not in favor of 1.55, but supported a shift slightly higher than the 1.50 recommended by the mayor.

Only two people from the public spoke about the tax factor. West of the River Chamber of Commerce Chairman John Weiss and V&F Auto owner Frank Palange both requested a lower shift to favor businesses.

Weiss chided the town government for

having such a residential-friendly tax shift.

"We have businesses that make up about 25 percent of property owners paying 39 percent of the tax levy," he said. "Then there is residents, who make up about 75 percent of property owners, but only contributing about 61 percent of the tax levy. It's not fair."

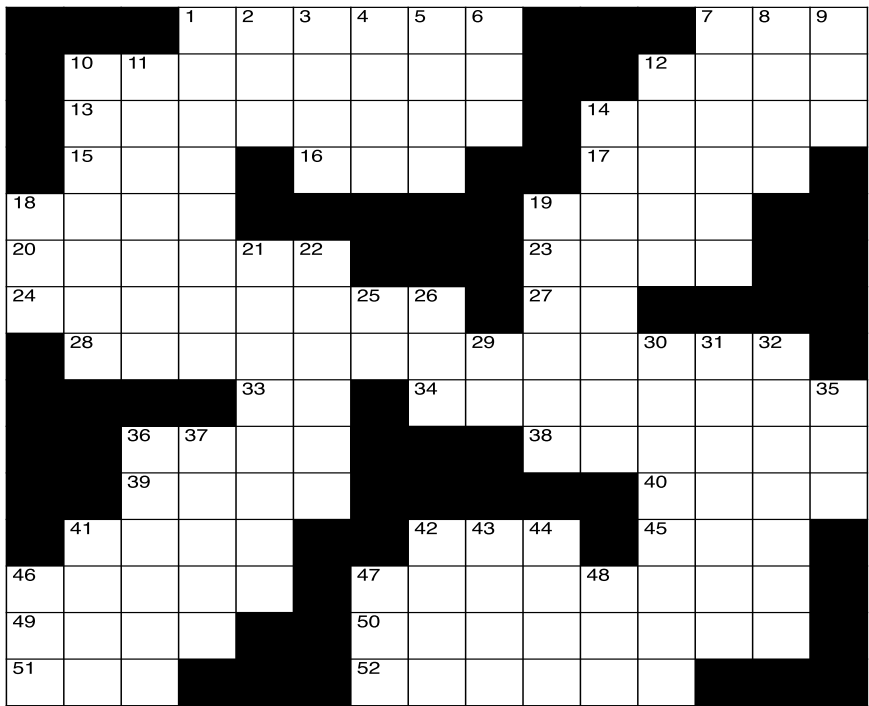
After a lengthy discussion, Councilor George Bitzas went back to the 1.50 tax shift, saying it was in the middle of the various proposals posed by councilors during the meeting.

But it was Letellier who finally made a formal motion to adopt a 1.52 shift. The proposal passed by a narrow 6-5 vote.

Councilors Mineo, Cavallo, Letellier, Rossi, and Donald Rheault all voted for the shift, with Bitzas, Calabrese, James Cichetti, Johnson, and Dennis Perry against it. In the roll call vote, Councilor Anthony Sufriti was the final and deciding vote in favor of the new shift.

Cohen commented on Tuesday morning, saying the council is the body that decides the tax shift, but he believes the council placed an extra burden on the businesses in town.

"I believe their shift will place a great burden on our businesses," said Cohen. "When I look at making a recommendation for the tax shift, it is after much thought and I try to do what I believe is the most equitable."



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Red wine
- 7. Best nurse-patient aid
- 10. Footwear closure
- 12. Chinese dynasty 1122-221 BC
- 13. Persuade to one's side
- 14. Advocate
- 15. Mandela's party
- 16. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
- 17. About aviation
- 18. Shallowest of the Greats
- 19. Sheathe
- 20. Frightened
- 23. Brews
- 24. Relates
- 27. Atomic #52
- 28. Up the ante
- 33. The "Kings's" initials
- 34. Lepton
- 36. Cornmeal mush (British)
- 38. One who analyzes syntactically
- 39. Algonquian tribe
- 40. Systems, doctrines, theories
- 41. Herb __, San Francisco columnist
- 42. Informed about the latest trends
- 45. Seven
- 46. Morocco's capital
- 47. What a doctor practices
- 49. Beaks
- 50. In a way, extends
- 51. A number or amount not specified
- 52. Gambling

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Composition for orchestra and soloists
- 2. Bulgarian monetary unit
- 3. Settled upon
- 4. Common frog genus
- 5. Electronic counter-countermeasures
- 6. Golf ball supporter
- 7. Divided into 3
- 8. Crazy (Spanish)
- 9. Billiards stick
- 10. More deficient
- 11. Solomon Islands capital
- 12. Larval crabs
- 14. Malta capital
- 18. Clairvoyance
- 19. Tomato condiment
- 21. Alleviation
- 22. French seaport
- 25. New Testament
- 26. Shortened (abbr.)
- 29. Employee (abbr.)
- 30. Opposite of leaving
- 31. Lip locking
- 32. Foes
- 35. Many not ands
- 36. Covered with healing scrapes
- 37. Regions
- 41. Abel's brother (Bible)
- 42. Greek Queen of the gods
- 43. Esau's descendants (Bible)
- 44. Canarium ovatum
- 46. Ribonucleic acid
- 47. Gas usage measurement
- 48. An oppositional argument

Answers on page 19

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Great day for a parade

Students from the Mary Ann Studio of Dance took part in the Spirit of Springfield's annual Balloon Parade on a bright sunny Friday after Thanksgiving. As they marched, they entertained the parade viewers along Main Street with performances of their "Jingle Bell Rock" number while welcoming in the holiday season for all. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

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Public Safety

FIRE LOG

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 72 EMS calls from Nov. 24 to Nov. 30, and the following emergency response calls.

On Nov. 24 at 4:30 a.m., the department responded to Castle Hills Road for public service.

On Nov. 24 at 6:40 a.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for building fire.

On Nov. 24 at 12:16 p.m., the department responded to High Street for power line down.

On Nov. 24 at 1:12 p.m., the department responded to Leonard Street to assist invalid.

On Nov. 24 at 6:13 p.m., the department responded to Poplar Street for fire, other.

On Nov. 25 at 2:09 p.m., the department responded to Cooper Street for citizen complaint.

On Nov. 25 at 6:27 p.m., the department responded to Route 5 South for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On Nov. 26 at 9:20 a.m., the department responded to S. Westfield St. for smoke detector activation, no fire — unintentional.

On Nov. 26 at 10:54 a.m., the department responded to Main Street for CO detector activation due to malfunction.

On Nov. 26 at 11:48 a.m., the department responded to Barney Street for public service.

On Nov. 26 at 1:06 p.m., the department responded to Parkview Drive for building fire.

On Nov. 26 at 1:23 p.m., the department responded to Hemlock Ridge for false alarm or false call, other.

On Nov. 26 at 4:09 p.m., the department responded to Main Street for public service.

On Nov. 27 at 1:02 p.m., the department responded to White Oaks for lockout.

On Nov. 27 at 5:10 p.m., the department responded to Main Street for alarm system sounded due to malfunction.

On Nov. 28 at 8:38 p.m., the department responded to Sharon Lane at Barry Street with no incident found on arrival at dispatch address.

On Nov. 28 at 11 p.m., the department responded to Shoemaker Lane for electrical wiring/equipment problem, other.

On Nov. 29 at 1:49 p.m., the department responded to North Street for electrical wiring/equipment problem, other.

On Nov. 29 at 2:21 p.m., the department responded to Suffield Street for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On Nov. 30 at 12:51 p.m., the department responded to Corey Street for chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue.

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 276 calls for service from Dec. 1 to Dec. 7. There were no arrests in the public log.

CLERK ■ from page 1

ment in the interim with oversight from myself and the Personnel Department."

McCarthy, the assistant town clerk, has already taken on one of the job's main responsibilities. With Theroux on the ballot as a council candidate, she ran the town election in November.

Cohen said he has been working on the job description with input from the clerk's office about the responsibilities of the department head. He is hopeful the description will be completed soon and then posted internally. Theroux was hired before job descriptions were formally part of the application process, so no description actually existed for the town clerk position.

"I have to take the job description and review with our Personnel Department and the with labor counsel to make sure it is legal," said Cohen. "Then I will post it internally for candidates, then post it externally."

Cohen said he will take as much time as needed to find "the right person" person to be the town clerk, regardless of Theroux's impending retirement.

"I'm not going to say I will have someone ready to go when Richard retires," said Cohen. "I want to make sure the town hires the right person for the job. We are losing someone who is a wealth of knowledge in Richard. He is going to be very difficult to replace." Cohen also stopped short of saying what the starting salary would be for the new clerk. In the adopted fiscal 2016 budget, Theroux's salary is listed at \$100,195.

"I'm not going to comment on any type of a salary range," said Cohen. "That is something that will be negotiated with the person that is chosen for the position."

This will be the second replacement of a 30-year veteran department head Cohen has made in the space of a year. Town Planner Deborah Dachos stepped down in February after serving the town for more than 33 years.

Italian film nights continue Friday

SPRINGFIELD — The Italian Cultural Center of Western Massachusetts will screen "Ladri di Biciclette" ("Bicycle Thieves") on Friday, Dec. 11, the second of its "Friday Night at the Italian Cinema" celebration.

The 1948 film is in Italian with English subtitles. It will be shown at the Italian Cultural Center, 56 Margaret St., Springfield. The doors will open at 6 p.m. and the movie will start at 7 p.m. Members attend for free but there is a requested donation of \$5 for non-members. Moviegoers will have a choice of beverage and a snack. A synopsis of the movie can be found at www.iccwm.org.

WNEU offers free legal services to small businesses

SPRINGFIELD — The Western New England University Small Business Legal Clinic is now accepting applications from entrepreneurs and small business owners seeking legal assistance for the spring 2016 semester. Under faculty supervision, law students assist clients with legal issues including choice of entity, employment policies, contract drafting, regulatory compliance, and intellectual property issues relating to trademark applications and copyright. This is a free service available to local businesses that would not otherwise have the resources to obtain these types of services.

The Small Business Clinic at Western New England School of Law has assisted more than 300 small businesses. Applications are requested by Dec. 31; those received after that date will be considered if additional resources are available. Students will begin providing services in mid-January. For more information, call the Legal Clinic at 413-782-1469, email mfletcher@law.wne.edu or visit www1.wne.edu/cie.

Youth



This year's playing field for the upcoming FIRST LEGO League Agawam Qualifying Tournament, "Trash Trek." SUBMITTED PHOTO

Junior high to host robotics tourney

Agawam Robotics Education Association will present the eighth annual FIRST Lego League Agawam Qualifying Tournament and FIRST Lego League Junior Expo on Dec. 12 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Agawam Junior High School. Weeks of hard work will culminate at a high-energy, sports-like tournament where teams will demonstrate their problem-solving skills, creative thinking, teamwork, competitive play, sportsmanship and sense of community. Among the participants are six teams from Agawam, along with teams from surrounding communities in Massachusetts. This event is free and open to the public.

FIRST Lego League is an international program designed for children in fourth to eighth grades, in which teams build a program a Lego Mindstorms-based robot to perform autonomous "missions" on a playing field. This year's "Trash Trek" challenge asks teams to explore the hidden but fascinating world of trash, from collection, to sorting, to smart production and reuse. The competition is judged in three categories: project, robot, and core values. Teams

with highest overall performance will advance to the Massachusetts State Championship Tournament, which will take place in Worcester Polytechnic Institute on Dec. 19. The highest honor will then go to one team from Massachusetts, with the opportunity to participate in the FIRST World Festival at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis in April.

Once again, the Agawam Lions Club will be serving breakfast, lunch and snack items but with a new twist this year. For anyone that visited their booth at the Big E this year, the mac and cheese "conewich" is no stranger. Instead of waiting until next year's Big E, the Lions Club will be offering this newest hit item on the menu during the event. As an added bonus, Moe's Donuts of Agawam will be making and selling freshly-made apple cider doughnuts on premise, which they normally offer farmer's markets and special events only.

For more information and a complete list of this year's participating teams, visit www.agawamrobotics.org/q2015/.

CAMPUS NOTES

Assumption College: Rebecca Fondakowski, of Feeding Hills, was elected as a student-leader in the Student Government Association for the 2015-16 academic year.

Keene State College: Vincenzo Scuderi, of Feeding Hills, was among 181 first-year students who received a Dean's Scholarship this year.

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth: Caroline Daubitz and Matthew Montano, of Feeding Hills, were named to the spring semester chancellor's list. Brittney Allivato and Caitlyn Pisarski, of Agawam; and Morgan Casey and Sarah Stephens, of Feeding Hills, were named to the spring semester dean's list.

Boys & Girls Club offers childcare during vacation week

WEST SPRINGFIELD — The Boys & Girls Club of West Springfield will be offering full-day childcare for the upcoming public school vacation week for children in kindergarten through eighth grade. The club will be open Dec. 28, 29, 30 and 31 from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The cost for those currently registered in the club's School Aged Before or After School programs is \$20 per day, per child, and \$25 per day, per child, for those not registered.

There is a scheduled bowling field trip to AMF Chicopee Lanes in Chicopee on Wednesday, Dec. 30. The cost for that day will be \$27 per child for current members and \$32 per child for non-members, which will cover transportation, admission and shoe rental.

Registration will be ongoing and space is limited. Registration forms may be downloaded at www.wsbclub.org. Contact the

club for registration and application information at 413-736-1831. The club provides lunch and afternoon snack during vacation and special days.

Registration and full payment must be returned to the club by Wednesday, Dec. 23, or by contacting the office manager to set up auto billing. All non-members must have a registration packet completed at least 24 hours prior to the day of care.

The daily schedule will include activities in the Triple Play Sports Programs, gymnasium team and cooperative games, computer lab, arts and crafts, games room and outdoor activities weather permitting.

The Boys & Girls Club of West Springfield is at 615 Main St. For more information on registration, contact Haabiba Whitney at the club. For program and/or daily activity information, call Priscilla Reyes at 413-736-1831 or visit www.wsbclub.org.

Agawam High School Counseling bulletin

College acceptances

Rachel Bonafilia — University of New Hampshire; Kyle Bosse — Wentworth Institute of Technology; Tyler LaCamera — American International College, Holyoke Community College, Western New England University; Elizabeth LaCroix — Johnson and Wales University, New England Culinary Institute; Sean Moore — Elms College; Lillian Mosychuk — Bay Path University; Julia Nadolny — Bay Path University; Amanda Ottomaniello — Bay Path University; Alexander Peterson — Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Florida Institute of Technology, Georgia Southern University, University of North Florida; Alexis Price — Becker College; Victoria Sutherland — St. Joseph's College of Maine; Samantha Swistak — American International College; Victoria Thomas — Bay Path University; Kristina Tran — Bay Path University.

Special interest programs

Jr. Tech Inc., a Massachusetts-based non-profit that has delivered experiential STEM education programs in Massachusetts for the past 10 years, is offering Girls STEM Summit on Sunday, April 10, at Regis College in Weston. The focus is on girls in grades 8-12 who are interested in or curious about careers in the STEM fields. The registration fee is \$55 per student and includes all speakers, hands-on sessions, lunch and snacks, giveaways and a take home gift. Call 617-512-1794 with any questions.

Springfield Technical Community College is again offering the chance for current juniors and seniors to take up to one free course in the spring and summer semesters through the College Now program. This is a great way to earn college credits while in high school while trying courses that may be helpful in exploring a potential career interest. See your counselor for details.

Elms College is offering an Advanced Placement program which allows eligible students to enroll in one three-credit course in the spring semester and receive full college transfer credit to the Elms or another academic institution of their choice. While tuition is waived,

students will pay a \$20 registration fee and \$50 technology fee. Registration for the spring semester is Jan. 20. Those interested should see their counselor for more information.

The railroad industry is thriving and railroad companies are looking for qualified workers to fill a variety of positions. The Railroad Engineering Technology Associate Degree program at Gateway Community College (New Haven, Conn.) prepares students for such careers. Contact Rick Halkyard at 203-285-2311 for more information.

Scholarship information

Students should see their counselor or visit the websites for more information or an application: the Charitable and Educational Trust of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts; The Phillips Scholarship Fund; the Michael Yaskick ADHD Scholarships by Shire; Big Y Scholarship; John F. Kennedy Library Foundation; Skidmore College; the Young Entrepreneur Foundation; Westfield-West Springfield Elks Lodge 1481; Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps; Abbott & Fenner Business Consultants; Ronald McDonald House Charities; Jack Kent Cooke Foundation; American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program; GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship Program; Henry David Thoreau Foundation; Aspiring Fashion Professional Scholarship; Aspiring Animation Professional Scholarship; Walter S. Barr Scholarship; Aspiring Nurse Scholarship; Christian Herter Memorial Scholarship.

Meritaid.com: On this free website, students can complete a profile and then access the college merit scholarships that match their profile. This organization does not sell its email lists to third parties. The site includes a comprehensive directory of merit scholarships and academic scholarships across the country.

Did You Know: The largest state university in the country is Arizona State University and the largest non-profit private university is New York University.

Entries due next week in writing contest

The Agawam Cultural Council is accepting entries in the sixth annual Writing Competition for all school-age children in the town of Agawam. A special presentation for the winners will be held March 8 at the Agawam Public Library.

The theme of the writing competition is "Courage/Bravery: Facing Fear — How Did You Do It?"

Students are asked to write about getting up in front of the class or audience to give a speech or book report, facing up to a fear of dogs, facing the school bully, admitting to something they did wrong, starting at a new school with no friends, facing up to social pressures or other examples of courage or bravery.

Students in different grades are asked to write in different formats: Kindergarten and grade 1, art poster; grades 2 and 3, paragraph; grade 4, poem; grades 5 and 6, composition; grades 7 and 8, 500-plus

word composition; high school, 750-plus word composition.

Entries will be accepted through Dec. 15. For information on how to format and where to send entries, pick up a flyer from the Agawam Public Library or visit agawamcc.org/html/WritingComp.html.

Previously published poems or short stories from other contests will not be accepted. The following prizes will be awarded in each category receiving six or more entries: first place, \$50; second, \$25; third, \$15.

Winning entries may be considered for publication in town papers, and at agawamcc.org, unless the recipient of the award specifically declines publication in this manner.

A special recognition event will be held March 8 at the Agawam Public Library. Awards will be distributed and the authors presented to the public at 7 p.m.

School Lunch

AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, Dec. 14: Chicken nuggets, potato rounds, seasoned mixed vegetables, fresh and chilled fruit.
Tuesday, Dec. 15: Rib-b-que, grinder roll, mashed potatoes, fresh and chilled fruit.
Wednesday, Dec. 16: Chicken filet wrap with assorted sauce, tomato and cheese, side of pasta salad, fresh and chilled fruit.
Thursday, Dec. 17: Fresh assorted calzones, garden salad with light dressing, warm breadstick, fresh and chilled fruit.
Friday, Dec. 18: Steak and cheese sub, steamed carrots, potato wedges, fresh and chilled fruit.

AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, Dec. 14: Baked mozzarella sticks with marinara sauce, oven baked fries, seasoned vegetable, fresh and chilled fruit.
Tuesday, Dec. 15: Cheeseburger on a whole-wheat bun, lettuce and tomato, potato wedges, fresh and chilled fruit.
Wednesday, Dec. 16: Pulled pork barbeque sub, steamed white rice, seasoned green peas, fresh and chilled fruit.
Thursday, Dec. 17: Diced turkey with gravy over mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetable, Italian ice, fresh and chilled fruit.
Friday, Dec. 18: Stuffed-crust cheese pizza, salad with light dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

ROBERTA G. DOERING SCHOOL AGAWAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Monday, Dec. 14: Baked mozzarella sticks with marinara sauce, oven baked fries, seasoned vegetable, fresh and chilled fruit.
Tuesday, Dec. 15: Cheeseburger on a whole-wheat bun, lettuce and tomato, potato wedges, fresh and chilled fruit.
Wednesday, Dec. 16: Baked chicken O's with dipping sauce, steamed white rice, seasoned green peas, fresh and chilled fruit.
Thursday, Dec. 17: Diced chicken with gravy over mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetable, Italian ice, fresh and chilled fruit.
Friday, Dec. 18: Stuffed-crust cheese pizza, salad with light dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

ELEMENTARY BREAKFAST MENU

Monday, Dec. 14: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, cinnamon graham crackers, mozzarella cheese string, juice.
Tuesday, Dec. 15: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, assorted nutri-grain bars, mozzarella cheese string, juice.
Wednesday, Dec. 16: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, assorted muffins, mozzarella cheese string, juice.
Thursday, Dec. 17: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, assorted Trix yogurt, mozzarella cheese string, juice.
Friday, Dec. 18: Pillsbury mini chocolate chip pancakes with syrup for dipping, mozzarella cheese string, 1 percent low-fat milk, juice

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Religious education students from Sacred Heart Parish recently filled 237 boxes with school supplies, toys and treats for needy children in Southeast Asia and Oceania. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Students at church support Operation Christmas Child

Students from Sacred Heart Parish in Feeding Hills collected 237 boxes for Operation Christmas Child for Samaritan's Purse. Students filled the shoeboxes with school supplies, toys and treats to be sent to needy children in Southeast Asia and the South Pacific from Australia and New Zea-

land. Nicolas Abodeeb and his mother Tracie DeGrandpre started it with his fourth grade class several years ago, and it has continued. This year, the students in kindergarten through grade 10 were asked to participate. The response was overwhelming.

Colleen applications due this month

Applications for the 2016 Agawam St. Patrick's Colleen are now available. The Colleen and her court will participate in activities throughout the "Irish season," culminating in the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 29.

Applicants must be aged 17-22 on March 17, 2016; be single and have no children; claim Irish ancestry; have an interest in continuing her education; and be a resident of Agawam or Feeding Hills.

Applications are due Dec. 21. Applications are available at Agawam High School, 750 Cooper St.; Agawam Public Library, 760 Cooper St.; Agawam Town Hall, 36 Main Street; Cooper's Gifts, 161 Main St., Agawam; St. Mary's High School, 27 Bartlett St, Westfield; Cathedral High School, 310 Main St., Wilbraham; and Holyoke Catholic High School, 134 Springfield St., Chicopee. The Colleen pageant will take place Feb. 14 at Chez Josef in Agawam.



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www.SheratonSpringfield.com



'Holiday time' for children next week

The Agawam Public Library will host a series of holiday-themed story times starting the week of Dec. 14. There will be multiple sessions of the program designed for children ages 3 to 5 and a separate program for children age 3 and younger.

"Holiday Time" is for children 3 to 5 years old. Participants will read a fun holiday-themed book and make a craft based on what they read. There will be multiple sessions of this program starting Tuesday, Dec. 15.

For the younger group, there will be "Toddler Holiday Time." During this time, children 3 and younger can read a holiday book and make a craft designed just for them. Toddler Holiday Time" will be offered Monday, Dec. 14, at 10:30 a.m.

Registration is required for both programs. To register, visit www.agawamlibrary.org. Those interested are asked to register for only one session. For more information, call the Children's Room at 413-789-1550, ext. 3.



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Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, Dec. 19th, 9 -11 am

Please join us for a pancake breakfast and a visit with Santa!

Free of charge with a canned good for the Open Pantry. Reservations required! Call 786-6133. Bring your own camera for pictures. Avoid the crowds at the mall and give your child the gift of unhurried time with Santa.

Blue Christmas Service

Saturday, Dec. 19th at 1 pm

Do the holidays often leave you feeling blue? Do you miss that certain someone who put the 'Happy' into your holidays? If you feel blue during the holidays for any reason, join us for our Blue Christmas Service

Christmas Eve Services

Thursday, Dec. 24th

4 pm – Christmas Eve Pageant
4 pm – Family Christmas Eve Service
10 pm – Candlelight Service



The Eggleston family of Agawam — from left, Jenn, Chase, 5, Meadow, 2 ½, and Roy — visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK



An excited Drake Peabody, 5, pours maple syrup on his pancakes at the Agawam Junior Women's Club's annual Breakfast with Santa.



Nicole Bouley pushes a plate of pancakes through the breakfast line while holding her 17-month-old daughter, Adrianna Sicard.

Santa breakfast brings holiday cheer to families



Jennifer Garner helps her daughter Lacie, 2, finish eating her pancakes.

By Mike Lydick
aan@turley.com

The Agawam Junior Women's Club set the holiday mood for hundreds of families with its annual Breakfast with Santa event this past Sunday. More than 400 adults and kids enjoyed pancakes and sausages at the Doering School. While they consumed more than 1,000 pancakes, five gallons of maple syrup, nearly 700 sausage links, more than 400 containers of milk and orange juice, and 150 cups of coffee, the "big" attraction for the kids was a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

To help families preserve special memories of their children's visit for years to come, the club also offered professional-quality photos for a nominal

charge. The money raised from selling photos and charging a fee for breakfast will help fund many of the women's club's community programs. Several local businesses — including Jerome's Party Plus, H.P. Hood of Agawam and Vista Home Improvement — provided equipment, cold drinks, or services. Additionally, the Agawam Family and Community Program donated one book for every child who attended. But the key to the event's success were the volunteers — a dozen Junior Women's Club members and several of their family members, plus 10 Agawam High School National Honor Society members. Working from before dawn to nearly noon they cooked and served breakfast while spreading some much-needed holiday cheer.



Agawam High School senior Paul Rivera carries a tray of steaming pancakes to the serving line. He was one of 10 National Honor Society members who volunteered at the breakfast.



Melinda Elwell and her son Wyatt, 3, share a laugh and some pancakes before he visited Santa.



Julia Warner, 8, was so inspired by her visit with Santa that afterwards she sat down at a table and colored a picture of him.



Four-year-old Jack Klinakis digs into a plate of hot pancakes.



From left, Timothy Sinigur, 9, Nathan Sinigur, 7, and Anya Taku of Agawam stop to pick out their free book before eating pancakes and visiting with Santa and Mrs. Claus.



Leah Barker, 9, chats with Santa and Mrs. Claus after having her photo taken with them. This year's Breakfast with Santa was special for Leah since it marked a year of progress for the Feeding Hills girl following cancer surgery.



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**Special appearance
by Santa Claus**

Santa breakfast, 'Blue Christmas' service next weekend

St.David'sEpiscopalChurchat699Springfield St., Feeding Hills, will host Breakfast with Santa from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 19. The event is free of charge with a canned good to be donated to the Open Pantry. Guests are encouraged to bring a camera for pictures. For reservations, which are required, call 413-786-6133.

Also, beginning at 1 p.m., a "Blue Christmas Service" is scheduled. Those feeling blue during the holidays for any reason are invited to this service.

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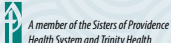

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² \$50 will be credited to the account after the account has been opened with either one of the following options: 1) open with Online Banking (must be activated within 60 days of account opening) and a Debit Card OR 2) open with Direct Deposit (bonus is achieved after the first direct deposit is made with a minimum of \$25) and a Debit Card. If achieved, this \$50 Bonus will be paid into the account by the last day of the statement cycle following the 60th day the account has been opened.

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SPORTS

FOOTBALL

Leclerc honored at Turkey Day game

Still holds several Bears records

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – On Thanksgiving, Agawam High School Athletic Director David Stratton stopped the annual holiday matchup between West Springfield and Agawam just before the third quarter to honor a decorated Agawam athlete.

Former NFL player Roger Leclerc received a special recognition for his athletic contributions to Agawam.

According to biographical information supplied by his sons, Leclerc was born in Springfield and moved to the north end of Agawam in the eighth grade. He attended AHS starting in the 9th grade where he played football, basketball and baseball. At AHS, Roger played for Harmon Smith, and was a member of the 1952 Peanut Bowl team. Other highlights of his years at AHS include

Scholar Athlete, Harvard Book Award, as well as serving on the student council, and class president his junior and senior year.

Leclerc is currently retired and lives with his wife, Fran, back in Agawam. His sons felt recognizing the contributions Leclerc made would be a great addition to this year's festivities.

"He has a really long resume and he was very involved with the community here," said Stratton. "He definitely deserves this recognition."

After setting several records at Trinity College in Hartford, he was selected to play semi-pro baseball in Canada.

In 1959, though, he was drafted by the Chicago Bears. He was also the first-ever player drafted by the Denver Broncos, in the rival AFL.

He would end up playing for

LECLERC | page 14



Roger Leclerc receives a special recognition award from Superintendent of Schools William Sapelli. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

WRESTLING



Coach Armando Ramos has Hayden Mandrella demonstrate a drill. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Year of opportunity for Brownies

Open spots lead to competition

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam wrestling team graduated a plethora of talented grapplers last season, including Anthony Basile, who reached the New England tournament.

But with open spots comes opportunity, and the Brownies have a roster of 27 that will contend for one of the 14 spots in the lineup and a chance to make an impact this season.

Coach Armando Ramos said his team has a very strong work ethic and a love of competition.

"These guys have a great at-

titude in practice," said Ramos. "And even though we are young and inexperienced, we have been able to practice at a high level."

In addition to Basile, the Brownies also lost Fred and Jim Karl-Morin, Nick Blais, and Nick Hope. All were top contenders in last year's tournament.

This year, Daigan Bishop and Hayden Mandrella return to the lineup.

Bishop will compete at 132 pounds this year, and Mandrella will be in the lineup at 138 pounds.

"They both have a great chance

WRESTLING | page 14

HALL OF FAME

AHS begins search for inaugural Hall class

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – After three years of research and planning, Agawam High School Athletic Director David Stratton announced a hall of fame would be starting up next fall.

The Agawam High School Athletic Hall of Fame will seek to memorialize and honor some of the best and brightest athletes, coaches, and contributors to Agawam High School sports over the history of the school.

Stratton said he had thought about having a hall of fame and had gotten input from others in the athletic community.

"I spent some time research-

ing it and looked at the hall of fames that exist in some of the other schools in the area, including Chicopee and Cathedral," said Stratton. "The hall of fame induction is a big tradition in some of those schools."

Stratton said there are many athletes that are worthy of being included in the hall of fame, and the inaugural class will be inducted in October 2016, he said.

"Right now, we are going to put it up for nominations," said Stratton. "We are going to accept them until April 1, 2016."

He said the nominations will be collected and evaluated by the AHS Athletic Hall of Fame Committee, which he established earlier this year. The committee will

vote on the first class, and the inductees will be notified by the end of the school year.

"This will give the new the inductees an opportunity to make travel arrangements and notify family if they need to," said Stratton.

Then a ceremony will be held on Sunday, Oct. 16, 2016 at Agawam High School. More details will be announced in the future.

However, Stratton said, "The Hall of Fame Committee is looking forward to a community effort to help make the AHS Athletic Hall of Fame a tribute to the athletes, coaches, teams and contributors who have given so

HALL | page 14

SOCCER

Cronin garners WMA soccer MVP award

WILBRAHAM - Katie Cronin stepped into a big role for the Wilbraham & Monson Academy girls soccer team this season.

How did she do? Her usual – great.

In just 15 games, and despite regularly being the focal point of opposing teams' defenses, Cronin scored 16 goals for the young Titans. She was named the team's MVP at the Athletic Awards Ceremony Nov. 17.

"Katie Cronin came into the season already having two great seasons for us, playing many different positions," coach Don Nicholson explained. "This year she really had some tough shoes to fill, obviously, with a team that graduated seven seniors from last year. Katie was a big part of that team a year ago, but losing seven seniors turned us into a young

team fast.

"But Katie stepped into the role of being the spearhead for our offensive efforts. Other teams knew that and played her that way, doubling her up often. She carried the burden. She scored some important goals for us and had some multi-goal games for us and did an outstanding job throughout the course of the season with a team that was, at times, struggling to find itself. Katie just persevered through all of it. She scored some big goals, especially toward the end of the season."

Cronin has been on varsity girls soccer for three seasons, but she has been part of the program for many more. Her sister, Carly, played on four Class B tournament teams for the Titans.



Agawam native Katie Cronin received the girls soccer MVP award in a ceremony last month. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS SUBMITTED PHOTO BY WMA

CRONIN | page 14

Sports

Indoor track prepares despite limited facilities

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – The athletic facility improvements could not come sooner for the Agawam boys and girls indoor track teams.

With limited facilities to practice in, the Brownies are still preparing for their first regular season meet, which is scheduled for Friday evening.

Agawam will take on Holyoke, Minnechaug and East Longmeadow in that meet, which is scheduled for 6:45 p.m. at Smith College.

All indoor track meets take place at the college’s facility.

Coach Dan Pryce said the girls went 5-5 last season and the boys had a 2-8 record.

Among the top competitors lost to the teams are Alli Stuetzel and Mike Reed. Both were the leading scorers for their respective teams, Pryce said.

With limited time to practice, Pryce said he has determined Agawam could be very strong in the high jump event. He says Sierra Kruser, Cassie Ayre, Grace Green, and all-sectional performer Caroline Hitchcock will all return. Hitchcock was a standout in the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference meet.

On the boys side, Pryce is projecting the lineup will include Jason Beaver.

“He had a really great season on the



Frank Dejkus, a sprinter for the boys indoor track team, works out in the weight room. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

cross country team and will probably compete in the 1000 meter race,” said Pryce.

Other projected starters will include

Vicky Abramchuk in the long jump and Paige Hardy in the high hurdles.

On the boys side, Troy Gallerani will be part of the 55 meter dash and Colin Czerpak will be a contender in the 600 meter race.

Pryce said this season both Hitchcock and Czerpak have the potential to be big scorers for their teams.

But improvement this season and in future seasons relies on proper facilities for the team to practice on. Several other teams, like East Longmeadow and Holyoke, have artificial surfaces and the ability practice farther into the late fall and early winter.

Agawam currently does not have a track for use.

“To improve we need a facility to practice on,” said Pryce. “We have a difficult time teaching hurdles, jumps, and baton exchanges (for relay events) without a place to work on them.”

Despite their challenges, Pryce said his team does work hard every practice with the facilities the school does have.

“We still need to improve our depth,” said Pryce. “But we work hard, and as long as the snow does not hit, we can work outside and continue to improve.”

The Brownies will compete Friday and then again on Dec. 15 against Westfield. After that, Agawam will not compete until Jan. 8.

Experienced Brownies look to charge

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – When the Agawam boys basketball team lost Tyler Desrosiers two years ago, they lost a 1,500-point scorer that anchored their offense and led the Brownies to two straight playoff appearances.

Last year, Agawam had to re-group and though it took several games, Agawam used a rotation of 10 players and improved to an 8-12 regular season record.

Coach Dave Federico said he is pleased to have most of his team back this season, and says they are a year older and a year more experienced.

“We have seven returners back from last year and there could be a variety of different ways we could go with our starting lineup,” said Federico. “We were very young last year. We played many of them knowing that they would grow and learn, and then be able to contribute this year.”

He said developing a team identity will be one of the focuses of the early part of the season. Federico said he will look to the group he built up last year to formulate his starting lineup as well as a group of supporting players.

Making the team already are Joe Moccio, Michael Destefano, Jonathan LeClair, Michael Ohradka, Myles Scott, Max Molta, Sean Moore, and Cameron Cabana.

All eight saw significant minutes in the lineup last year and all eight showed an ability to score serious points at one point or another during the season.

Moccio provided Agawam with some depth from beyond the arc with his ability to hit 3-pointers. Ohradka also was among the top scorers in several games.

Scott was inserted into the rotation about midway through the year. As a freshman, he made an immediately impact while on the floor, and will be given an opportunity to contribute more during this season.

Federico said he will be dressing 12 players each game, but says the remaining four will be decided closer to the start of the season, and could change during the season.

He is pleased with how the preseason has gone so far, and wants his team to contend for a league title.

“This year our team is focused on making a run at a league title,” said Federico, who is in his 11th year of coaching Agawam. “We also want to gain a spot in the Western Mass. Tournament. Our strengths this year are athleticism, depth, and experience.”

Last season, Agawam opened up with a dismal 1-7 record, before finishing 7-5 in the final 12 games of the year.

The Brownies will be in a crowded Suburban League this winter, along with Chicopee Comp, Ludlow, South Hadley, Sabis, Longmeadow, Minnechaug, and Belchertown.

The Brownies will also meet Westfield, Northampton, and Central on the independent circuit.

Agawam will open up the regular season Friday night when it faces Commerce at home at 7 p.m.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

Agawam 2015-2016 winter varsity schedule

Boys Basketball

Friday, Dec. 11	Home	Commerce	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 15	Away	Northampton	7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 18	Home	East Longmeadow	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 22	Home	Westfield	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 29	Away	Central	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 12	Away	Chicopee Comp	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 15	Away	South Hadley	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 19	Away	Ludlow	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 22	Home	Belchertown	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 26	Away	Minnechaug	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 29	Away	Longmeadow	7 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 1	Home	Sabis	7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 4	Home	Chicopee Comp	7 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 8	Home	South Hadley	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 9	Away	Holyoke	7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 11	Home	Ludlow	7 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 15	Away	Belchertown	7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 18	Home	Minnechaug	7 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 22	Home	Longmeadow	7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 25	Away	Sabis	7 p.m.

Girls Basketball

Friday, Dec. 11	Away	Hampshire	7 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 14	Away	Chicopee Comp	7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 17	Away	Sabis	7 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 21	Home	Holyoke	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 23	Home	Chicopee	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 30	Away	Amherst	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 4	Away	Chicopee	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 7	Away	Longmeadow	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 13	Home	West Springfield	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 15	Away	West Springfield	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 19	Home	Minnechaug	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 22	Away	Central	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 25	Home	Ludlow	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 28	Home	Northampton	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 2	Home	Westfield	7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 5	Away	Minnechaug	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 9	Away	East Longmeadow	7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 12	Away	Ludlow	7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 19	Away	Westfield	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 23	Home	East Longmeadow	7 p.m.

Hockey (all home games at Olympia)

Thursday, Dec. 10	Away	East Longmeadow	6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 12	Home	Westfield	8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 19	Away	Ludlow	3:10 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 26	Away	Westfield	6 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 28	Home	Shrewsbury	12 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 30	Away	North Middlesex	TBD
Saturday, Jan. 2	Home	Minnechaug	4 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 7	Away	Longmeadow	6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 9	Away	Algonquin	4:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 14	Home	West Springfield	8:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 18	Home	Marblehead	10 a.m.
Thursday, Jan. 21	Home	East Longmeadow	6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 23	Home	Longmeadow	2 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 2	Away	Chicopee	12 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 6	Home	Ludlow	8 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 11	Away	Minnechaug	8:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 13	Away	Cohasset	TBD
Monday, Feb. 15	Away	Wayland	4 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 18	Away	West Springfield	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 24	Away	Saugus	6 p.m.

Indoor Track (all meets at Smith College)

Friday, Dec. 11	Versus	Minnechaug, Holyoke, East Longmeadow	6:45 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 15	Versus	Westfield	3:45 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 8	Versus	Chicopee, Sci-Tech	3:45 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 15	Versus	Amherst, Putnam	6:45 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 19	Versus	Longmeadow, Northampton	6:45 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 22	Versus	Central	6:45 p.m.

Skiing (all meets at Berkshire East)

Thursday, Jan. 7	Meet #1	5 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 12	Meet #2	5 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 14	Meet #3	5 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 21	Meet #4	5 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 26	Meet #5	5 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 28	Meet #6	5 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 2	Meet #7	5 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 9	Individuals	9:30 a.m.

Swimming and Diving

Friday, Dec. 11	Home	Longmeadow	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 15	Away	Northampton (at JFK Middle School)	4 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 18	Away	Sci-Tech	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 22	Home	Westfield	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 5	Away	Amherst (at Amherst Middle School)	4 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 8	Away	Minnechaug	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 12	Home	Easthampton	4 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 15	Home	Holyoke Catholic	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 19	Home	Central	4 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 22	Away	Chicopee Comp	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 26	Home	Palmer	4 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 29	Away	Monson (at Quarry Hill)	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 2	Away	South Hadley (at Michael E. Smith Middle School)	4 p.m.

Wrestling

Wednesday, Dec. 16	Away	Putnam	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 29	Home	Phil Tomkiel Holiday Tournament	10 a.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 6	Away	Longmeadow	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 13	Away	Ludlow	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 20	Home	Northampton	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 27	Home	West Springfield	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 3	Home	Westfield	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 10	Home	Minnechaug	7 p.m.

Sports

Litz Alumni Game set for Dec. 30

AGAWAM - The ninth annual Brian Litz Memorial Alumni Game will be played on Wednesday, Dec 30 at the Agawam High School gymnasium.

The doors will open at 5:30 p.m.

There will be two games this year. At 6 p.m. various alumni from all years will play against each other, then at 7:15 p.m. this year's varsity squad will play against an alumni team consisting of past Brian Litz Scholarship Winners, coaches, and Brian's teammates from high school.

As always there is no cost for admission to the games. If you would like to make a donation at the door, all proceeds go to the Brian Litz Memorial Scholarship Fund which awards scholarships and helps out

the AHS Basketball Program.

The scholarships awarded each year are voted on by the team. They choose the players that they feel best represents what Brian Litz stood for - being a great teammate, giving 100 percent effort, and always having a positive attitude.

Please help spread the word about the alumni game to help out this worthy cause. If you cannot make the game and would like to donate, checks can be made payable to: Agawam Boys Booster Club c/o Brian Litz Fund, and mailed to 40 Denise Lane, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

We look forward to seeing everyone on Dec. 30. Happy holidays from all of us associated with the Scholarship Fund.

Ski, hockey tickets available at Park & Rec

AGAWAM — The Parks & Recreation Winter Brochure is now available online at www.agawam.ma.us.

Discounted Ski Blandford tickets are available for \$25 each and can be used any day that the mountain is open for skiing during the 2015-16 season. Tickets will be available at the Parks & Recreation Department, 1000 Suffield St., beginning Monday, Dec.14. Call 413-821-0514 for more information.

Discounted Springfield Falcons tickets may be purchased for \$15 each at the Agawam Park & Recreation Department. The vouchers can be exchanged at the Falcons box office at any time for any Falcons home game. Call 413-821-0514 for more information.

These tickets make great Christmas presents and/or stocking stuffers.

LECLERC ■ from page 12

eight years with the Chicago Bears, playing for great coach George Halas, and playing with a number of famous Bears, including Dick Butkus, Gale Sayers, and Mike Ditka.

Unlike now where there is a specialist for almost every position, Leclerc played multiple positions in the field for the Bears. He played center, defensive tackle, defensive end, linebacker, and even was a kicker for the team.

According to the Leclercs, Roger holds several Bears records to this day, including kicking five field goals in a game in 1961, going 52-for-52 in extra points in 1965, and winning the Dwight D. Eisenhower Outstanding Player Award in 21st annual Armed Forces Benefit All-Star Game in

1966. He was also part of the NFL World Champions in 1963.

He did play for the Broncos for one year and then retired from football.

Back in Agawam, he immediately got involved with the community, teaching at Agawam Junior High and the high school for 29 years. He also coached the semi-professional Hartford Knights. At Agawam High School, Leclerc coached football and golf.

Later, he would bring his coaching skills and members of his staff to Westfield State University (then College) to start a football program there.

CRONIN ■ from page 1

"I've known Coach Nic since I was 9," Cronin said. "I was a ball girl for four years. I've had a connection with the soccer program and Coach Nic for a long time. Before I came here I knew what I was getting into. I just loved the family-type atmosphere."

"I wouldn't be the player I am today without Coach Nic, and my teammates for supporting me and pushing me to be my best every day."

Cronin was named to the Women's Western New England Prep School Girls' Soccer Association All-League team. Her team MVP award comes six months after winning MVP honors for girls lacrosse.

"I had a pretty good year," Katie said. "It was great to see the team really come together at the end of the season and play well."



Hayden Mandrella and Jimmy Adams grappler during practice.



The wrestling team warms up at practice Monday. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

WRESTLING ■ from page 12

to make and place at states," said Ramos. "They have both been working very hard in the offseason and are very hungry."

Another returner is David Rodriguez, a senior. He competed in the middle weights last year sometimes at 152 pounds and also at 160 pounds. This year, he has bulked up and will try his luck at 182 pounds.

"David Rodriguez is also a very talented senior who has a lot of experience," said Ramos. "He is very dangerous on his feet and is a great team. He was also captain of the football team."

Ramos said Callum Hastings will come up from junior varsity and compete at 152 pounds.

"He is an exceptional athlete," said Ramos. "He has been wrestling since he was 7 years old and now seems to have the strength to do well in the varsity lineup."

Another 152-pounder is Troy Carrol. Ramos said Carrol worked hard in the off-season and wrestled all summer and traveled throughout the region competing in tournament. Ramos could move him and Hastings around in the 152-160 weight classes.

Ramos also said Jimmy Adams, a senior, has a chance having a better year at 120 pounds.

He said newcomers that could crack the starting lineup include Dom Ladue, a fresh-

man at 120 pounds, and Spencer Kozlak, a junior at 195 pounds.

"It's still a little bit early and we have some close matchups in our own team," said Ramos. "We have not set the starting lineup yet."

The Brownies will compete in the Valley Wheel league with Ludlow, Westfield, Northampton, and Longmeadow on their Wednesday night meet schedule. But the Brownies will also have a lot of tough tournaments and multi-team meets on their schedule this year.

Agawam will host its annual Phil Tomkiel Holiday Tournament on Tuesday, Dec. 29 and will 12 other teams involved this season, including Lakeland-Panas, N.Y., and Enfield, Conn.

"We will also travel to Guilford, Conn. to wrestle some of the best Connecticut and New York teams," said Ramos. "We will also compete in a tournament in Woburn on Jan. 16."

To open the season, Agawam will compete in the Cybercat Dual Invitational beginning at 10 a.m. Agawam will face Putnam on Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

HALL ■ from page 12

much to the high school and to the Town of Agawam through sport. The presentation of the first Hall of Fame class will be held at the Agawam High School on Sunday, Oct. 16, 2016."

Stratton did not say how many individuals would make it into the inaugural class, but estimated it could be about seven or eight. He said it is possible entire teams could be inducted for exemplary seasons.

"I'm really hoping that this will be a great tradition each year at Agawam," said Stratton.

He said he envisions inductees receiving a plaque to commemorate their induction. Though it is not confirmed, a plaque with

the names of the members of the hall of fame will be placed somewhere in Agawam High School.

To nominate a possible inductee, you can fill out a form online. Nomination forms must be completed in their entirety or they will not be considered. To fill out the form, go to http://www.agawampublicschools.org/pages/Agawam_PS/Athletics/Athletics.

Among qualifications, individual players or teams must have graduated at least 10 years ago to be considered. Coaches must be retired or no longer coaching at Agawam for at least five years.

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Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote free events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@turley.com, fax to 413-786-8457, or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

Friday, Dec. 11

SINGING CHRISTMAS TREE SPECTACULAR at Bethany Assembly of God, corner of Route 57 and Main St., Agawam. 7 p.m. Friday, Saturday; 6 p.m. Sunday. Pre-arranged seating for larger groups can be arranged by calling 413-789-2930. Nursery for infants provided for each presentation.

ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTER, 56 Margaret St., Springfield, "Friday Night at the Italian Cinema" with showing of "Ladri di Biciclette" ("Bicycle Thieves"). English subtitles. Doors open at 6 p.m. Free for ICC members; \$5 for non-members. For more information, visit www.iccwm.org.

Saturday, Dec. 12

A FUNDRAISER COOKIE SALE 8:30 to 11 a.m. at Southwick Congregational Church, 488 College Highway. For more information, call 413-569-6362.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR at Community Grange 382, 47 N. West St., Feeding Hills, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Gift items, ornaments, wreaths and more made by Grange members. Bake sale, Paws-a-tively Delectable all-natural dog treats, bandanas and gift items along with Tastefully Simple, BlueDogs Craft and Decorative Painting by Peg Sullivan.

A LIVE NATIVITY from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Church of Redemption, 50 Maple St., Agawam. Christmas carols, hot cocoa, cookies and animals courtesy of the Forest Park Zoo. Kids will be able to decorate their own Christmas cookie.

Sunday, Dec. 13

FIRST BAPTIST ANNUAL COMMUNITY CAROL-SING at 4 p.m. at the historical First Baptist Church at Hastings Hill on Hill Street, Suffield. Attendees will experience an old-fashioned carol sing, complete with hot chocolate and mulled cider, at Hartford County's oldest Baptist church, founded in 1769.

NORTHERN CONNECTICUT VEGETARIAN SOCIETY potluck dinner, 4:30 p.m. For more information or reservations, call Harry at 860-623-8082 or email veggy-harry@aol.com.

THE WEST SPRINGFIELD COIN CLUB will meet at 7 p.m. in the Church of the Good Shepherd, 214 Elm St., West Springfield. Presentation and discussion about Colonial Massachusetts coinage. Small auction will take place. Refreshments available. Guests welcome. For more information, call Peter Setian at 413-596-9871.

A HOLIDAY BAZAAR AND VENDOR FAIR for Autism Speaks, 1 to 5 p.m., VFW, 63 Veterans Way, Springfield. Food, raffle prizes and pictures with Santa.

Legals

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT November 12, 2015

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Public Library, Community Room, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA on **Monday, December 14, 2015 at 6:30 PM** for all parties inter-

ested in the appeal of Steve Deland-Shibley Court, who is seeking a Variance in accordance with Section 180-31 (C) to allow for the construction of an apartment unit at the premises identified as 33 Norman Terrace, also known as Shibley Court. **Doreen Prouty** Chairperson Agawam Board of Appeals 11/26,12/3,12/10/15

HOW TO SUBMIT LEGAL NOTICES

All legal notices to be published in the *Agawam Advertiser News* should be sent directly to klanier@turley.com. Karen Lanier processes all legals for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Karen directly at 413-283-8393 x271. Turley Publications, Inc. publishes 15 weekly newspapers throughout Western Massachusetts. Visit www.turley.com for more information.

Tuesday, Dec. 15

THE AGAWAM CULTURAL COUNCIL will meet at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. The meeting is open to the public. An opportunity exists with the Agawam Cultural Council for anyone with an interest in providing diverse cultural events for the town. This all-volunteer organization is looking for new members.

LOCAL COMEDY TROUPE PHANTOM SHEEP will present an evening of improv and sketches satirizing the season at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., at 6:30 p.m. "LaughCrafters" will feature live improvised scenes created on the spot based on audience suggestions, along with a few pre-recorded sketches.

Wednesday, Dec. 16

NOONTIME CONCERT at South Congregational Church, 45 Maple St., Springfield, to feature violinist Lani Bortfeld and keyboardist Larry Picard performing music for the holidays. Free will donation. For information, call 413-732-0117 or email lpicard@sococh.org.

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS AT THE QUADRANGLE will present "The Star of Bethlehem: Investigating an Ancient Mystery" at 12:15 p.m. in the Museum of Fine Arts, at 21 Edwards St., Springfield. Admission is \$4 (\$2 for museum members). Parking is free. For information, call 413-263-6800, ext. 488.

Saturday, Dec. 19

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT at Second Baptist Church, 11 N. Main St., Suffield, 3 p.m. A reception of light refreshments in the church's Fellowship Hall follows. Free will offering collected to benefit Suffield Emergency Aid Association Fuel Bank.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA at St. David's Episcopal Church, 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, from 9 to 11 a.m. Free of charge with canned good for Open Pantry. Reservations required. Call 413-786-6133. Bring your own camera.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE at St. David's Episcopal Church, 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. Open to anyone feeling blue during the holidays for any reason.

Sunday, Dec. 20

CHRISTMAS CAROLING ON THE GREEN at 689 Main St., Agawam at 4:30 p.m., hosted by the Agawam Clergy Assoc. Lighting of the Christmas tree, singing of Christmas carols followed by hot chocolate and cookies. In the event of inclement weather, it will take place in the Agawam Congregational Church hall at 745 Main St.

THE AGAWAM CONCERT BAND & CHOIR and the Alice Moore Golden Bell Choir of the Agawam Congregational Church are presenting a "Sounds of the Season" concert at 7 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Church Hall, 833 Main St., Agawam. Tickets available at the door or may be purchased in advance by calling 413-530-9779.

SING WITH THE ANGELS Christmas concert, 3:30 p.m. at the Gothic Sanctuary of Trinity Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Ave., Springfield, performed by the Trinity Chamber singers, Chamberettes and Handbell Choir. Free. Reception of cookies and punch to follow.

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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Agawam Advertiser

Legion Auxiliary backing Agawam charity to benefit foster children

Each year, the Massachusetts American Legion Auxiliary's Children and Youth chairman selects a project to support, culminating at the statewide convention in June. This year, Massachusetts Department Second Vice President Maureen Cragen, from West Springfield Unit 207, selected Angels Take Flight in Agawam.

Angels Take Flight provides suitcases and backpacks to children in the foster care and safe house programs. Tamara Blake, the charity's president, organized her program to help children at a difficult time in their lives so that they would have something to take their possessions in other than a trash bag. This program promotes the child's dignity at this turbulent time.

Cragen presented more than 50 suitcases, totes and backpacks to Blake. Many of the backpacks were filled with things like small blankets, toiletries, games, puzzles and coloring books with a value of approximately \$3,500.

For more information or to support this program with a donation, contact Cragen at moebdl@aol.com, or or 413-734-2897.

This is just one of the programs that American Legion Auxiliary members



The American Legion Auxiliary chose Angels Take Flight of Agawam, which provides backpacks full of essential items for children transitioning from home to home or to other placements, as its project to support this year.
SUBMITTED PHOTO

take pride in supporting. For information on how to join, contact the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Massachusetts at 617-727-2958 or masslegion-aux@verizon.net.

Thursday, Dec. 24

AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 745 Main St., will host a family candlelight service at 5 p.m. and a traditional candlelight service at 11 p.m. All are invited.

Friday, Jan. 8

THE ACC APPLAUSE SERIES starts the new year with a presentation of local phenomena by Agawam Paranormal at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St. Free and open to the public. For more information on Applause, visit www.agawamcc.org.

SECOND ANNUAL SCOUTING ALUMNI REUNION hosted by the Boy and Girl Scout units of Southwick, Granville and Tolland 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. All former Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturers, Explorers, Scouters and other adult volunteers are invited. RSVP by emailing alumni@wmascouting.org or calling Alicia Garcia at 413-594-9196, ext. 7031. There is no cost to attend, and guests are invited to bring Scouting memorabilia or pictures to share.

Sunday, Jan. 10

THE WEST SPRINGFIELD COIN CLUB will meet at 7 p.m. in the Church of the Good Shepherd, 214 Elm St., West Springfield. A special coin topic to be presented and discussed. Refreshments available. Guests welcome. For more information, call Peter Setian at 413-596-9871.

Wednesday, Jan. 13

THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam, offers an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper at a cost of \$8 for adults, \$4 for children. The public is welcome.

Tuesday, Feb. 2

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST TUESDAY MORNING MUSIC CONCERT, 361 Sumner Ave., Springfield, will

feature the Devine-Nix Duo at 10:30 a.m. Reception to follow. For more information, call Yolanda Martin at 413-736-0766 or email firgo9654@aol.com.

Friday, Feb. 12

DAN JONES, EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES column "Modern Love," will share his stories and read from his books at 10:10 a.m. the 11:15 a.m. at Scibelli Hall at STCC as part of its free Ovations series. For more information, call 413-755-4233 or email pcodonoghue@stcc.edu.

ONGOING

GRANDPARENT'S PLAYGROUP Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., at St. David's Church, 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. This free infant and toddler playgroup features music and movement, fostering children's interactions and sharing skills. Open to all grandparents and their grandchildren. Follows school schedule.

MOM 2 MOM takes place the second Tuesday of every month October through June, 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St. A roundtable discussion hosted by a local "veteran" mom, this is a great way to have further conversation on recent café themes and parent education events, celebrate parenting and receive encouragement for the trials.

THE AGAWAM ST. PATRICK COMMITTEE meets the third Wednesday of each month, September through June, at 6:30 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Rectory conference room, 833 Main St., Agawam. For information on how to join, call Vera Conway at 413-786-3247 or email Rosemary Sandline at rosmarysandlin@gmail.com

ADULT DROP-IN SIT AND KNIT meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. No registration needed.

Agawam Senior Center

Lunch Menu

- Monday, Dec. 14:** Linguini and red clam sauce, garden salad, oranges.
- Tuesday, Dec. 15:** Sloppy Joes, Tater Tots, coleslaw, peaches.
- Wednesday, Dec. 16:** Country pie, mixed vegetables, pudding.
- Thursday, Dec. 17:** Shrimp chow mein, brown rice, crunchy noodles, diced pears.
- Friday, Dec. 18:** Christmas luncheon — chicken breast topped with prosciutto, gorgonzola and mushroom cream sauce, stuffed tomato, oven roasted potatoes, chocolate peanut butter cupcake (\$6).

Calendar of Events

Monday, Dec. 14: 8 a.m., weight training; 8:15 a.m., yoga; 9 a.m., Painting Club; 9:30 a.m., line dancing; 11:30 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 12:30 p.m., free winter car care seminar, Reiki (call Carlene at 413-525-7345 for appt.); 1 p.m., bingo; 5:30 p.m., Zumba Gold.

Tuesday, Dec. 15: 9 a.m., exercise, knitting class, sewing class; 10 a.m., chair exercise; 12:30 p.m., mah jongg, Christmas variety show \$5 (no movie); 1 p.m., Mexican Train Game; 2:30 p.m., chorus; 4:30 p.m., yoga; 6 p.m., beginner line dance.

Wednesday, Dec. 16: 8 a.m., weight training; 8:15 a.m., yoga; 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 12:30 p.m., bridge; 1 p.m., Scrabble, ballroom lessons; 1:30 p.m., Golden Agers Chapter 2 (no meeting at center; banquet); 5:30 p.m., Zumba Gold.

Thursday, Dec. 17: 9 a.m., last exercise class before Christmas break, Christmas candy-making; 9:30 a.m., quilting class; 10 a.m., line dancing; 12:30 p.m., bridge, Investment Club meeting; 1 p.m., pitch, open art; 2 p.m., Melody Band practice; 4:15 p.m., pilates; 6:30 p.m., pitch.

Friday, Dec. 18: 8 a.m., yoga; 9:15 a.m., all media art; 10 a.m., tai chi; 11:30 a.m., Christmas luncheon and raffle (music with Liz Carter); noon, canasta; 1 p.m., pitch, cribbage; 5:30 p.m., no Zumba Gold.

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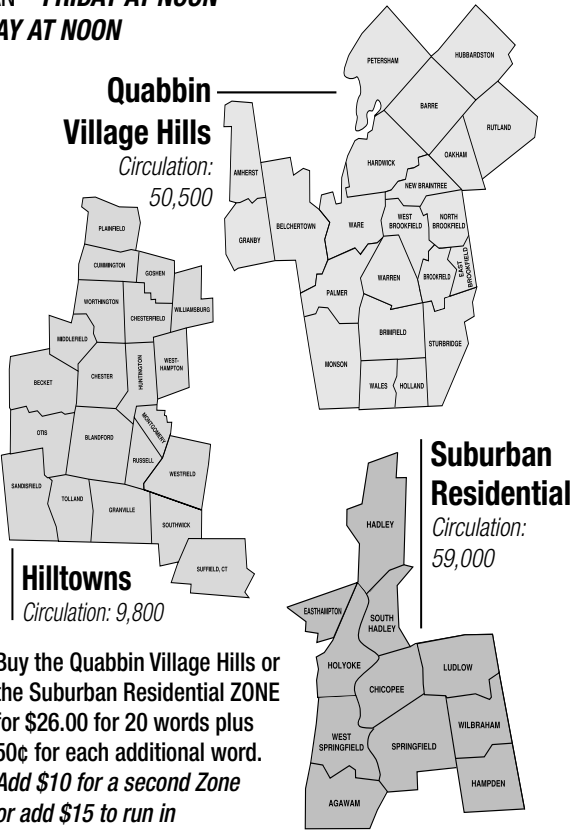
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21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00



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Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
Credit Card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover ☐ Cash ☐ Check# _____
Card #: _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

First ZONE base price _____ Includes additional words
Add a second ZONE **\$10.00**
Add a third ZONE **\$5.00**
Subtotal _____
x Number of Weeks _____
TOTAL Enclosed _____

Run my ad in the following ZONE(s):
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☐ Suburban
☐ Hilltowns

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WE RENOVATE, SELL & PURCHASE (any condition) horse drawn vehicles such as sleighs, carriages, surreys, wagons, dr's buggies, driveable or lawn ornaments. Some furniture and other restoration services available. Reasonable prices. Quality workmanship. Call **(413)213-0373** for estimate and information.

Demers & Sons
Belchertown, MA

Appliances

COLEMAN APPLIANCE SERVICE. Servicing all makes and models of washers, dryers, refrigerators, stoves, dishwashers, air conditioners. Also dryer vent cleaning. **(413)536-0034**.

Carpentry

HOUSE REPAIRS, CARPENTRY, wood & alum. trim, doors, gutters cleaned, etc. 30+ years exp., insured. Jim **(413)219-3355**

Child Services

***NEW STATE LAW.** Anyone advertising caring of children must list a license number to do so if they offer this service in their own home.

AN EXPERIENCED, LOVING, mature woman needed to care for our 4-year-old in our home. Hours: MWF afternoons (12-4pm) and TTh all day (8-4pm). Schedule tracks college calendar. Long-term only. Start date: mid-January 2016. References/safety certifications required. Email: ablb1021@yahoo.com

Cleaning Services

DANNY BOY SERVICES
Junk removed, clean outs, one room to whole house, cellars, sheds, even attics. You need it clean I'm the one you need, call Dan **413-883-5113**

Computer Services

COMPUTERS SHOULDN'T BE frustrating or frightening. I'll come to you. Upgrades, troubleshooting, set-up, tutoring. Other electronics too. Call Monique **(413)237-1035**.

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BILL CAMERLIN. ADDITIONS, service changes, small jobs for homeowners, fire alarms. Fast, dependable, reasonable rates. Insured, free estimates. E280333. 24 hour emergency service. **(413)427-5862**.

DEPENDABLE ELECTRICIAN, FRIENDLY service, installs deicing cables. Free estimates. Fully insured. Scott Winters electrician Lic. #13514-B Call **(413)244-7096**.

JAMES FERRIS: LICENSE #E16303. Free estimates. Senior Discounts. Insured. 40 years experience. No job too small. Cell **(413)330-3682**.

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ACCENT FLOORS. INSTALL, Sanding, and refinishing. Third Coat free! Competitive prices. Call for your free estimate. **(413) 532-4681** Tim Wilber.

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All types of masonry work. Chimney repair, tile work, stucco, stone, brick, block, concrete, flat work, pavers, retaining walls. Heating & Air Conditioning Service & Installation
Furnaces, Sheet Metal
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Commercial & Residential
Free Estimates
Competitive Rates
Call Adam Ouimette
413-374-7779

C-D HOME IMPROVEMENT. 1 Call for all your needs. Windows, siding, roofs, additions, decks, baths, hardwood floors, painting. All work 100% guaranteed. Licensed and insured. Call Bob **(413)596-8807** Cell **CS Lic. #97110, HIC Lic #162905**

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DELREO HOME IMPROVEMENT for all your exterior home improvement needs. **ROOFING, SIDING, WINDOWS, DOORS, DECKS & GUTTERS.** Extensive references available. Fully Licensed & Insured in MA. & CT. Call **GARY DELCAMP @ 413-569-3733**

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PELISSIER TILE- SPECIALIZING in the timeless art of tile setting since 1982. Insured, Free estimates. Call Bill **(413)446-7458**.

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Complete Drywall Service. Finishing, Painting, Ceilings (Smooth or Textured). 38 years experience. Fully insured

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UNITED TRACTOR TRAILER SCHOOL
Unitedcdl.com

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Over 30 yrs. in business
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LINC'S PLUMBING LIC #J27222
Scheduling Replacement Heating Systems Now
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Roofing

SKY-TECH ROOFING, INC. 25 years experience. Commercial, residential. Insured. Shingles, single-ply systems. Tar/ gravel, slate repairs. 24 hour Emergency Repairs. **(413)536-3279, (413)348-9568, (413)204-4841**.

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24 HOUR SNOWPLOWING service, Palmer, Monson, Wilbraham, Hampden. Call now limited space available. **(413)519-5439**.

Z M RELIABLE SNOW Removal for driveways, sidewalks, Residential or Commercial. Save our number for roof shoveling! Call **(413)297-1403**

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AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING. Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack. **1-413-436-9821** Cell **1-413-537-7994**

ATEKS TREE- HONEST, quality tree service. From pruning to house lot clearing. Fully insured. Free estimates. Firewood sales. **(413)687-3220**.

Pets

BE A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER - Financially needy? Call for assistance to spay/neuter your cat/dog. **(413)565-5383**
CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR ANIMALS.

RETIRED RACING GREYHOUNDS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION
spayed/neutered, wormed, shots, heartworm tested, teeth cleaned

Make a Fast Friend!

Greyhound Options Inc.
Call Mary at **413-566-3129** or Claire at **413-967-9088** or go to **www.greyhoundoptions.org**.

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HORSEBACK RIDING LESSONS offered year round at our state of the art facility. Beginner to advanced. Ages 4 years to adult. Boarding, sales and leasing also available. Convenient location at Orion Farm in South Hadley. **(413)532-9753**
www.orionfarm.net

Help Wanted

FT/ PT DRIVERS wanted. Cash paid nightly \$100 to \$200 per shift. Must have car. \$\$\$ Domino's Pizza, Hadley **(413)256-8911**.

GRAPHICS PERSON- KNOWLEDGE of Quark and Photoshop, Mac, for local printing company. **(800)245-3145**.

Help Wanted

CNA's, PCA's, HHA'S, SIGN ON BONUS

Positions available at Professional Medical Services, Inc.
Highest competitive rates & mileage paid. EOE.
Call Denise. **(413)289-9018**

DRIVERS: NE REGIONAL. Run. \$.44cpm. Monthly Bonus. Home Weekly. Complete Benefit Package. Rider Program Immediately. 100% No-Touch. 70% D&H. **888-406-9046**

FULL TIME MAINTENANCE

Mechanic - The Belchertown Housing Authority is seeking a qualified candidate with extensive experience in plumbing, electrical, carpentry, painting, and grounds maintenance. This position performs a variety of skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled tasks in the repair and maintenance of equipment, properties and grounds and requires heavy lifting and work under adverse conditions such as snow, sleet, heat and cold. Must be able to operate equipment such as trucks, snow blowers, tractors and power equipment, have a valid MA Driver License and pass a CORI. Should be comfortable working among a variety of residents (elders, families, minorities and people with disabilities) 5 years relevant experience preferred. Please submit resumes to: Pamela Rogers, Executive Director Belchertown Housing Authority 41 Everett Ave OFC 24 Belchertown MA 01007 or email housingauthority.ed@belchertown.org. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. EOE/Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM

Part-Time Assessor's Clerk
Looking for dependable person to work Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm, Wed 1 pm to 4:30 pm. (19.5 hrs/wk, some flexibility); \$15.05/hr, no benefits, requires proficiency in admin skills incl. scheduling, keyboarding, Word & Excel, filing/organizing documents, read & explain maps, plans, permits, understand accounting principles & demonstrate excellent customer service skills; HS/GED, addl. admin training/education pref., min 2 yrs F/T exp in comparable position. Must be detail oriented, reliable, organized, with excellent communication skills. For application & more info go to www.wilbraham-ma.gov (print application, complete & mail/bring to:) Selectmen's Office, 240 Springfield St., Wilbraham, MA 01095. Deadline is Thurs. 12/31/15 at 4:30 p.m. EOE

Help Wanted

Osterman
Propane

Expanding full-service propane company has this opportunity available:

Transport Driver

Must have 5 years' minimum experience. Class A driver's license with HAZMAT and tanker endorsement and TWIC card.

Pre-employment physical, with substance abuse testing per DOT regulations.

Excellent benefits package, including medical, dental, vision, life, and disability insurance, 401(k) retirement plan, paid vacations and holidays, and discounts on propane and appliance purchases.

Interested candidates, please apply in person at:
998 Church St., Northbridge, MA
Or mail resume to: P.O. Box 29
Whitinsville, MA 01588
Or email resume to:
hr@ostermangas.com EOE

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM

Public Works Foreman- Wastewater Division
Great opportunity for a dedicated & hardworking individual pursuing a career in Wastewater Operations. The position serves as the Town's Wastewater Division Foreman/Technician, and performs technical, mechanical, physical & supervisory work associated with the maintenance, repair & upkeep of waste water pump station & collection systems, incl. associated buildings & grounds. Analyzes & troubleshoots problems such as sewer main leaks/breaks, malfunctioning or inoperative system pumps, motors, controls, & all associated waste water systems. Requires HS, (addl. technical or vocational edu in rel field strongly pref.), 5 yrs F/T rel. exp. with 3 yrs supervisory exp. or equiv. combination of exp. & educ. Must have CDL Class B w/tanker (Class A pref.) and Hoisting Engineer's License, must have or obtain Mass. wastewater collection system certification & Grade 2 Operator's license within 1 yr of employment. Must meet DOT Drug Testing requirements; Must pass CORI and physical. F/T union position with full benefits, \$21.26-25.63/hr DOQ. Please complete Town employment application available online at www.wilbraham-ma.gov or at Town Offices, 240 Springfield St., Wilbraham, MA 01095. Deadline is 12/31/2015 at 4:30 p.m. EOE

Lead Painter & Paint room Assistant Wanted

Looking for an experienced Production painter as well as a paint assistant needed for manufacturing facility in Palmer, Mass area.

Experience with spray guns required. Wet paint, Electrostatic system used with conveyor line.

Must know how to clean gun, operate paint line, and mix and measure paint formulas.

High quality finish required for finishing World-wide product line of many colors.

QC inspection of all parts required prior and post paint process.

Full time positions only, hours are 7am-3:30pm M-F. Benefit package includes 401k, profit sharing, health insurance.

References and prior work experience required at time of interview.

Looking for self-motivated person looking for long term career.
Email your resume to Andrew@ocwhite.com to apply or call 413-289-1751.



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Help Wanted

HAIRSTYLIST WITH LICENSE WANTED for busy salon. Pay hourly or commission. Apply in person 303A Springfield St., Agawam (413)786-6988.

PCA NEEDED SATURDAYS & Sundays, 8 hrs., Exp. Mornings- 3 hours, afternoons- 1 hour. Call anytime. John (413)532-1836.

Real Estate



TOOMEY-LOVETT
109 West St.
Ware, MA 01082
www.Century21ToomeyLovett.com

413-967-6326
800-486-2121
West Brookfield:
508-867-7064

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Joe Chenevert	
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Call us today for a Free Market Analysis of your home!

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SPRINGFIELD BOSTON ROAD
Cozy 1 bedroom starter home with much potential. Covered patio, nice yard, shed. Conveniently located \$24,900. 413-593-9961
DASAP.MHVILLAGE.COM

For Rent



ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

LUDLOW -\$775 PLUS utilities, 2nd floor apt for rent. 1 bedroom, washer/dryer, off street parking, landlord on-site, no pets. 978-394-6036

INDIAN ORCHARD/ LUDLOW 4 room apartments. Near bus line. No pets. Private parking. (413)543-5326



For Rent

FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

Office Rentals

PROFESSIONAL OFFICE SPACE for rent right off Mass. Pike Exit 7 in Ludlow: updated and quiet office in a premier remodeled professional building; new carpeting, lots of brightness and natural lighting in the office, ample free parking, front and rear entrances, ideal location. \$575 per month plus utilities. Please call Rich at (413)237-9891.

Vacation Rentals

WARM WEATHER IS year round in Aruba. The water is safe, and the dining is fantastic. Walk out to the beach. 3-bedroom weeks available. Sleeps 8. \$3500. Email: carolaction@aol.com for more information.

Auto For Sale

2005 CHEVY CAVALIER 2 door LS Sport Coupe, power windows, air, cruise control, sunroof, spoiler, 16" chrome wheels. 59,000 original miles. \$5,000 (413)283-5037

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Fax: (413) 786-8457

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5 Exchange Street
P.O. Box 448
Barre, MA 01005
(978) 355-4000
Fax: (978) 355-6274

QUABOAG CURRENT

80 Main Street
Ware, MA 01082
(413) 967-3505
Fax: (413) 967-6009

THE CHICOPEE REGISTER

(413) 592-3599
Fax: (413) 592-3568

COUNTRY JOURNAL

P.O. Box 429, 5 Main Street
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(413) 667-3211
Fax: (413) 667-3011

THE SUN

(413) 612-2310
Fax: (413) 592-3568

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(413) 283-8393
Fax: (413) 289-1977

THE SHOPPING GUIDE

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Palmer, MA 01069
(413) 283-8393
Fax: (413) 289-1977

THE REGISTER

24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
(413) 283-8393
Fax: (413) 289-1977

THE SENTINEL

P.O. Box 601
10 South Main Street
Belchertown, MA 01007
(413) 323-5999
Fax: (413)323-9424

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23 Southwick Street
Feeding Hills, MA 01030
(413) 786-7747
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80 Main Street
Ware, MA 01082
(413) 967-3505
Fax: (413) 967-6009

THE TOWN REMINDER

138 College Street, Suite 2
So. Hadley, MA 01075
(413) 536-5333
Fax: (413) 536-5334

WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN TIMES

2341 Boston Rd.
Wilbraham, MA 01095
(413) 682-0007
Fax: (413) 682-0013

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24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
(413) 283-8393
Fax: (413) 289-1977

the best around
CLASSIFIEDS

Deadlines:

The deadline for all print classified ads in the Quabbin and Suburban Zones is Friday at noon for publication the following week. The deadline for the Hill Towns Zone is Monday at noon. All online ads will be published for 7 days including the corresponding print editions.

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The ACC’s Applause Series begins the new year with the a special presentation of local phenomena by Agawam Paranormal Jan. 8 at the Agawam Senior Center. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Paranormal group gives a ‘spooky start’ to new year

We all stop to consider the “ghostly” world of the paranormal in October, but for those who live or work in a “haunted” location, every day can feel like Halloween. The Agawam Cultural Council kicks off the new year’s portion of its popular Applause Series with a presentation by Rob Goff Sr. and the Agawam Paranormal team at the Agawam Senior Center at 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 8.

This custom presentation will highlight and showcase some of the best evidence gathered during para-

normal investigations conducted locally by the group over the last seven years. The audience will listen to audio recordings that seem to have captured a little “extra” and view video and photographs featuring unexplained presences. Questions and “spirited” discussion will follow.

The Agawam Senior Center is at 954 Main St. and can be reached by phone at 413-821-0604. This and all Applause Series events are free and open to the public.

Additional information on each

of the Applause Series events is available at www.agawamcc.org.

The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency that provides part of its funding. The Agawam Cultural Council is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.

Church Directory

AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

745 Main St., Agawam
786-7111
Pastor: Rev. Greg E. Dawson
office@AgawamCong.com
www.agawamcongregationalchurch.com

SUNDAY SERVICES at 10 a.m.
Communion on the first Sunday of the month
Church school is in session and fellowship
coffee hour follows the service.
“A place to call home ~ A people to call family”

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

459 Mill St., Feeding Hills
413-786-4174
Pastor: Ken Blanchard
email_agawamumc@gmail.com
www.agawamworship.org

WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday 10 a.m.
Holy Communion served 1st and 3rd
Sundays.
Coffee hour after worship; Bible Study after
fellowship.
Prepare Meal for Samaritan Inn Homeless
Shelter 2nd Saturdays 2-5 p.m.
Offsite Worship:
Heritage East, 1st Mondays, 11 a.m.
Heritage North, 1st Tuesdays, 11 a.m.
Heritage Woods, 1st Mondays, 11 a.m.
Country Estates, 2nd and 5th Thursdays, 11
a.m.

BETHANY ASSEMBLY OF GOD

580 Main St., Agawam
(413) 789-2930
www.bethany-ag.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Richard E. Adams
WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday 9am & 10:45am
Christian Education offered during both
services.
Nightlife Contemporary Service: Sunday 6
p.m.
Wednesday Family Night: 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF REDEMPTION

50 Maple St., Agawam
(413) 304-2313
churchor.org

WORSHIP SERVICES
Summer Schedule
Sunday Services, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Sunday school for children and nursery for
younger children

FAITH BIBLE CHURCH

370 Shoemaker Lane
Agawam
(413) 786-1681

jesussaves.7@comcast.net
Church Website: www.faithbible-church.org
Pastor: Rick Donofrio

SERVICES
Sunday School for all ages 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Night Prayer
Meeting and Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

FEEDING HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

“An Open and Affirming Congregation.”
21 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills
P.O. Box 264
(413) 786-5061
fhccucc@comcast.net
Pastor: The Rev. Robert C. Donaldson

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
Church School 10:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10 a.m.
Infant and child care provided.
Handicap accessible.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF AGAWAM

760 Main St., Agawam
churchedie@comcast.net
www.firstbaptistagawam.org
Pastor: Rev. George Thomson

SUNDAY SERVICES
Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School (grades K - 5)
following Children’s Message until 10:45
Youth Group meets at 11 a.m.
Coffee & Conversation following
worship service

HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

152 South Westfield St.
Feeding Hills
789-2026

SUNDAY SERVICES
Men’s & Women’s Bible Study Groups and
Children’s Sunday School Worship Service at
10 a.m. Children’s Church for age 3 to high
school takes place after the service. Nursery
available for younger children. A time for
fellowship after the service.

LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

522 Springfield Street
Feeding Hills, MA 01030
413-821-0937
Senior Elders Bob and Barbara Olmstead
Email: office@lighthousema.com
Web: www.lighthousema.com

WORSHIP SERVICE
Saturday evening Celebration at 6 to 8 PM
Saturday evening Prayer from 5 – 5:45 PM
1-hour classes for children ages 3 to 12
during service
Nursery available for younger children

SMALL GROUP MEETINGS in homes during
the week
(call or see website for more information)

MARANATHA BAPTIST CHURCH

522 Springfield St., Feeding Hills
Feeding Hills, MA
478-9484
David L. Short, Pastor

Sunday Family Bible Study Hour, 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Service, 11 a.m.
Sunday Night Service, 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer, 7 p.m.

SACRED HEART CHURCH

1103 Springfield St., Feeding Hills
(413) 786-8200
www.SacredHeartFeedingHills.org
Fr. Steven Amo

WEEKLY SERVICES
Lord’s Day Masses: Saturday, 4 p.m.;
Sunday, 7:15 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m.
Confessions: Saturdays, 3:15 p.m.
Weekday Masses: Monday, Tuesday,
Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.
Special Devotions: Perpetual Novena to the
Sacred Heart following the Friday 9 a.m.
Mass

ST. DAVID’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Harvey Hill
699 Springfield St.
Feeding Hills
(413) 786-6133
saintdavid@comcast.net
www.stdavidssagawam.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
Sunday 8 a.m. Rite I and Holy Eucharist
10 a.m. Rite II and Holy Eucharist
Sunday school and Nursery during 10 a.m.
service
Coffee hour following the 10 a.m. service
Handicap Accessible

OFFSITE WORSHIP
Church without Walls, 2nd Sunday of the
month at 12 p.m. at
Parish Pantry, West Springfield
Holy Eucharist and distribution of bag lunches

ST. JOHN’S CHURCH

823 Main St., Agawam
786-8105
info@stjohnangelistchurch.org
www.stjohnagawam.org

SCHEDULE OF MASSES
Saturdays: 5 p.m. Sundays: 8 a.m. & 10:30
a.m.
Reconciliation: Fridays, 7:15 to 8 a.m., Satur-
days, 4 to 4:45 p.m.
Weekdays: Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri., 8 a.m.
Thursday: Communion Service



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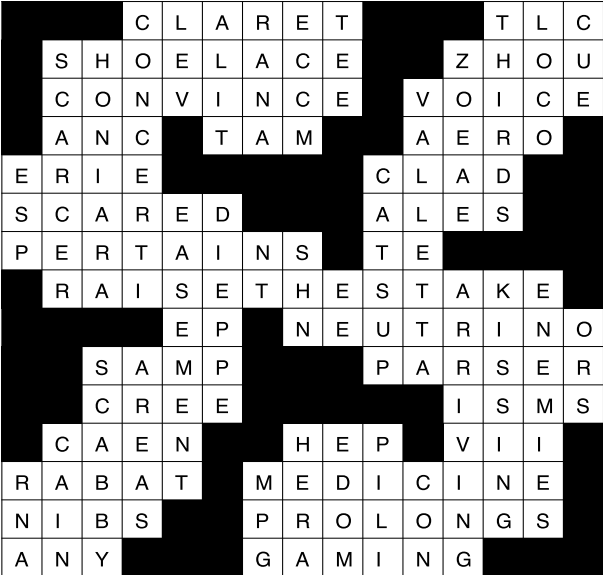
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WEDDING AND EVENT PLANNER

BANQUET FACILITIES

Chandlers at Yankee Candle – Voted the most romantic restaurant and best wine list in the valley for 10 years. Voted official best family restaurant of Massachusetts. South Deerfield, MA. 413-665-1277 or log onto chandlersyankeecandle.com.

The Hotel Northampton – Pioneer Valley's only true Grand Ballroom, luxurious guestrooms, two restaurants, award-winning food, on-site parking, steps from unique shops and galleries. 413-587-8105. www.HotelNorthampton.com.

Look Park Garden House – Gazebo, Pine Theater and Sanctuary for wedding receptions and ceremonies, meetings, banquets and events for up to 170 people. 300 North Main Street, Rt. 9, Florence, MA. 413-584-2220. www.lookpark.org.

Magic Wings Butterfly & Conservatory Gardens – You and your guests will be surrounded by 4,000 beautiful butterflies in a tropical setting anytime of the year! Accommodations for up to 100 for your ceremony and reception. All inclusive wedding packages available. We also host pre-wedding and rehearsal dinner parties. 281 Greenfield Road, Scenic Routes 5 & 10, South Deerfield, MA. 413-665-2805. www.magicwings.com.

Publick House Historic Inn & Country Lodge – Has been creating picturesque New England weddings for over 230 years. Visit www.publickhouse.com or call 508-347-3313.

Sheraton Springfield – One Monarch Place. Your Weekend Wedding Destination; rehearsal dinner, wedding and post nuptial brunch all in the comfort of one location. Newly renovated, atrium style hotel with ballroom seating for up to 500 guests. Complimentary room for the Bride & Groom, Rolls Royce, Centerpieces and Parking included in all packages. Contact Kristen Muszynski, your personal wedding consultant at 413-263-2117 or kmuszynski@sheratonspringfield.com to set up your tour today!

Storowton Tavern – Storowton Tavern & Carriage House is a landmark area facility located on the grounds of the Eastern States Exposition. The operators of the facility, the Calvanese family, have over 45 years of hospitality experience. They offer beautifully landscaped grounds, terraced patios and an upscale banquet facility that can serve 400 guests. For more information please visit www.storowtontavern.com. We are located at 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield, MA 01089. 413.732.4188. info@storowton.com.

Union Station – Northampton's Union Station was designed by American architect H. H. Richardson in 1886. This historic train depot has been extensively renovated to contain one of the most elegant and unique banquet facilities in all of New England. The Grand Ballroom at Union Station. www.unionstationbanquets.com.

Villa Rose – 1428 Center Street, Ludlow. 413-547-6667. Banquet facilities for parties large and small up to 200 people. Showers, receptions, graduations and more. Catering available for up to 1,000 people.

The Wherehouse? – Located downtown in historic Holyoke. The most unusual & interesting banquet function facility you've ever seen! Call today for your appointment, 413-534-3039. Visit us online at www.the-wherehouse.com.

BEAUTY & HEALTH

Brooks & Butterfield THE • DAY • SPA – Relaxed. Beautiful. Confident. Voted the Best Day Spa 9 years in a row. 140 Main Street, Northampton. 413-586-0366. www.brooksandbutterfield.com.

CAKES

Atkins Farms Country Market – For over 20 years, our cakes have been made from scratch, and we use only the highest quality ingredients. Decorated with beautifully hand crafted frosting flowers and topped with probably the best butter cream icing you'll taste anywhere. Our cake has had rave reviews from our customers from all around the Pioneer Valley where we are also well renowned for our quality baked goods. 253-9528. www.atkinsfarms.com.

CATERERS

UMass Catering – Premier caterer serving the Pioneer Valley with beautiful views in the heart of the UMass Amherst Campus. 413-577-1234. Visit us online at www.umass.edu/catering.

FLORISTS

Atkins Farms Country Market – Atkins Flower Shop is managed by three full-time experienced floral designers to assist you in planning the wedding of your dreams. You can be assured of receiving the excellent service and quality products from the floral department that you have come to expect from Atkins. Their work is beautiful and expertly done and offered to you at prices that are surprisingly reasonable. 253-9528. www.atkinsfarms.com.

Sixteen Acres Garden Center – The Floral Shop at Sixteen Acres Garden Center has been servicing Springfield for over 50 years. Our professional staff members aim to provide a service that is unique and tailored to suit individual needs. We provide a complete, high quality range of floral products at competitive prices. The Floral Shop at Sixteen Acres Garden Center offers flowers that are fresh daily and we take great pride in our work. We have arrangements for all different occasions and all budgets. For professional and experienced service please contact us at 413-783-5883. Located at 1359 Wilbraham Road, Springfield, MA. Visit us on the web at www.16acresgardencenter.com.

JEWELERS

Silverscape Designs – was founded by Denis Perlman over 30 years ago and is noted for its commitment to showcasing the work of the finest in American handcrafted jewelry & gifts. Silverscape also specializes in custom designs for that perfect piece of jewelry. Silverscape Designs is located at One King Street in Northampton, MA. www.silverscapedesigns.com.

Stevens Jewelers & Diamond Gallery – A family operated company with wholesale and retail operations. Buying gold, silver and diamonds, jewelry & watch repair, custom design & remounts. Personalized engraving, appraisals. Visit us at our NEW location 1501 Elm Street, West Springfield, MA. 413-731-9800.

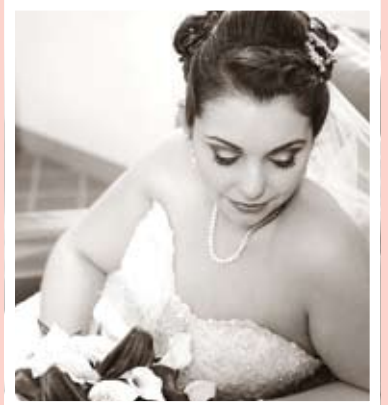
PHOTOGRAPHY

Karen Geaghan Photography – My life, my passion, my love! Specializing in Life Cycle Photography: Weddings, Maternity, Newborn, Children & Families. Doing small things with great love because in the end I believe it's the little things that count the most. Clients become family! Visit me at www.karengeaghanphotos.com or call 413-596-2227 or 537-3001. I would LOVE to hear from you!

RENTALS

Michael's Party Rentals – Showers, ceremonies, rehearsal dinners, receptions. Tents for 10-500. Tables, chairs, dance floors, linens, tent lighting, events, graduations, bbq's. Call 413-583-3123 or visit us on the web at www.michaelspartyrentals.com.

Northampton Rental Center – From intimate to extravagant, weddings are a big event with us. We offer expert advice in selecting the finest tents, chairs, tables, dinnerware, glassware and flatware to make your reception memorable. 59 Service Center Road, Northampton, MA. 413-584-5072.



Photos by Karen Geaghan Photography



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